

A close-up photograph of a woman's eye. The eye is heavily made up with dark eyeliner and mascara, and the eyelid is covered in a dense, shiny purple glitter. The skin around the eye is smooth and pinkish. The background is dark and out of focus.

get perspective.



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110



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ads & index.

186

seniors.

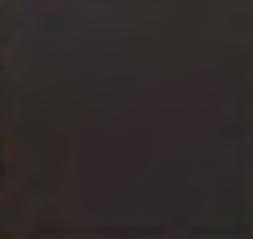
156

people.

126

get perspective.





get perspective.

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get insight.

Each year a new set of trends, excitements and activities emerge. These elements of culture remain unique to each year, setting it apart from others. Some students describe their styles as a way of life. As members of a diverse school community, all students have individual ways of expressing themselves. Students choose to live in certain ways, some the same as their peers and others uniquely. This is the way we live. But it is truly up to us to give our own lives meaning. "No one ever finds life worth living - one has to make it worth living."
-Anonymous



photo credit: Junior Shannon Wood

Culture Shock.

Imagine spending seven weeks of summer in a beautiful foreign country, learning a new culture, language and history.

Sounds like a dream, right?

For three seniors, it was a dream come true.

The Indiana University Honors program selects outstanding high school students to study language and culture in France, Germany, Spain and Mexico. While countless study abroad programs exist for students, the IU Honors program is especially unique. First of all, it is reserved for Indiana students. Students live with a host family and are not allowed to speak English for the entire trip.

"They come back confident," World Language teacher Mrs. Evelyn Steiner said of students. "It's not a struggle for them to speak the language all day long."

World Language teacher Ms. Irene Spiro added, "They are more mature and responsible, and it helps prepare them for college because they are away from their family for so long."

Seniors Brandon Taylor and Courtney Bargfeldt both spent their summer in France, while Senior Christopher Crawford spent his summer in Mexico.

"People are always saying, 'When am I going to use this?' I figured it was the perfect example of when I could use it," Crawford said.

But being thrown into a completely new culture has its drawbacks.

"I felt like my French speaking skills were inadequate to have a successful experience," Taylor said.

In the end, they all coped well, despite the program's no-English policy.

"It was very difficult. I found it hard to not only speak French all the time, but also to think in French," Taylor concluded.

"I was scared I would mess up on the no-English part. I hadn't had French in 12 weeks," Bargfeldt added.

In the end, they all had a once in a lifetime experience.

"I'm really glad I did it," Crawford said. "It made me open to other cultures and made me want to learn as many other languages as I can."

Under the Eiffel Tower, Senior Brandon Taylor takes a picture that almost every visitor to Paris takes. "Me and my foreign exchange group took a trip to see the Eiffel Tower before I parted my way to Brest, France," Taylor said.



Saying goodbye to her host family, Senior Courtney Bargfeldt takes one last picture. "We all gathered together to take this picture a few days before I left," Bargfeldt said.



Nearson yet eager and excited Senior Courtney Bargfeldt said she was ready to begin her summer stay in Brest, France as a student in the Indiana University Honors Program in Foreign Languages.

"I am really eager to learn more in French culture," Bargfeldt said. "The no-English rule remained when she came back home." "I felt it would be hard to speak English again, but was happy to return with gifts," Bargfeldt said.

With Jenny Egler, a fellow student in the Indiana University Honors Program for Foreign Language, Senior Christopher Crawford rides on a bus to Guanajuato, Mexico. Crawford spent part of his summer living in San Luis Potosí with his host family.

Crawford said he and Egler, a senior from Mooresville High School, were practicing their Spanish.



On the sea with his host family, Senior Brandon Taylor joins them on their annual trip to Brest, France. Taylor said his host family loves boats. "My family was interested in boats and took boat trips every year," Taylor said.





Adjusting to new things can be hard to do in high school. In the Netherlands, "we can still do it until you are 18, and there are so many fast food places," Senior Herman Brandsma said. In his free time, Brandsma said, "I enjoy reading, my Internet business, and being with my host family and friends."

Senior Mayela Martinez said she is adapting to schooling in America. "We stay in one classroom and never leave; the teachers come to us," Martinez said.



"My reasons for visiting the states are different from other foreign exchange students," Senior Hugo Hemmen from the Netherlands said. "I didn't know what I wanted in my life because in my country I already graduated, but I hadn't made a choice on college."



Senior Arturri Palosari said that America is a lot different than Europe. "Our culture is different, and the food in Europe is healthier," Arturri said.

Senior Ka-Ki Fong, exchange student from Hong Kong said that adapting to America's size and its difficult for him to learn other foreign exchange students. "It was not so hard for me because I live in Hong Kong and I live in the city where everything is fast," Fong said.



"I was happy when I first arrived to the United States from Italy," Senior Monica Derigh said. One of her most memorable events was when she missed her plane and had to wait for the next plane to arrive.



"Everything happened so fast," Senior Aksel Tandberg of Norway said. "It took me about a month to adjust to the culture and the traditions of the American life," Tandberg added. "Our school is very different. There is no security or cameras in our school, and they are more lenient towards tardiness."



foreign affairs.

Students from Germany, Hong Kong, Norway, Mexico, Italy, Netherlands and Finland journeyed halfway across the world to visit Merrillville High School for the school year. These eight foreign exchange students experience life in the United States for the first time.

Imagine going away to a high school thousands of miles away from your home, to a new life style, language, home and school.

"[I was] thrilled and excited. Everything was big. It was cool," Senior Hugo Hemmen of the Netherlands said.

"I like it. It is good and there's a lot of classes; it's different," Senior Herman Brandsma of the Netherlands said.

"It's a big, big campus," Senior Ka-Ki Fong of Hong-Kong adds.

Different schools come with different rules; for many of the students it was a big change.

"[Merrillville High School] is way strict; I can't leave school when I want. [At my school in the Netherlands, we] had school at different times, [here, you] have school everyday same times. [Here,] you also have freshmen in some of the classes with seniors, [at my school] we don't," Hemmen said.

"In the Netherlands, we] never have school buses and have few sports," Branolsma adds.

Being their first time in America, new experiences await around every corner.

"[My most memorable experience was] when I went to New York City, Wall Street and the Time Square," Branolsma said.

"I went to Niagara Falls. It was amazing," Fong adds.



"I did the foreign exchange program to make new friends and help me learn more English," Senior Fabian Hoffman from Germany said. "Merrillville is different and an easier learning environment and I wish I had the opportunity to stay longer," Hoffman said.





Students at Menomonee Falls High School have been cheering for their school since the early 1900s. The first school was built in 1903, and the first football team was formed in 1905. The school was renamed Menomonee Falls High School in 1924.

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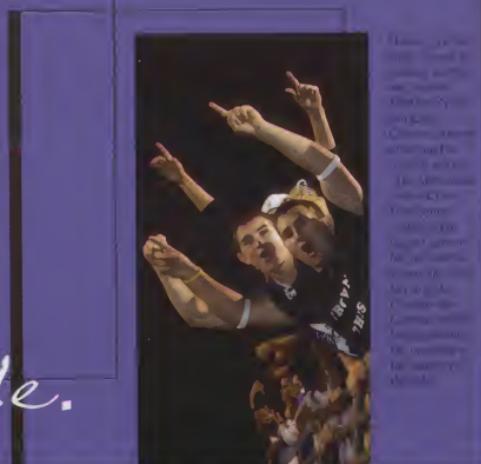
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With the school's 100th anniversary approaching, the school's spirit is strong. Students are cheering louder than ever before, and the school's traditions are alive and well.



pirate pride.





In mid-air, Senior Colton McIlroy performs a kick flip at Merrillville Intermediate School. "I like skateboarding more than school sports because it gives you more of an adrenaline rush than normal sports," McIlroy said.

Looking for a shot, Senior Michael Vasquez attempts to help his paintball team win the match. "I just saw it on TV one day and thought it looked like fun, so I tried it," Vasquez said. Vasquez has been paintballing for three years and is now on a team.



extreme sports.

Danger. Speed. Height. Intensity. Adrenaline. Students say these characteristics set extreme sports apart from all others.

Snowboarding, skateboarding and paintball get high marks from high school students.

With the danger that comes while participating in these high intensity sports, it's no wonder that pain and injury are common.

"I went to stop once and I caught a lip in the snow. That forced me to get whipped backwards and I hit my head on some ice," Junior snowboarder Peter Paskash said.

"I sprained both wrists and an ankle," Senior skateboarder Joseph Matczak said.

Risk definitely plays a huge part of making some sports extreme. To some the risks outweigh the benefits. To other daring individuals, the risk is nothing compared to the feeling of freedom that comes with participation.

"If you love something, then one fall shouldn't stop you," Paskash said.

"You can't stop. It's addicting. You just have to keep trying," Senior paintballer Michael Crist said.

In addition to danger, the equipment doesn't run cheap.

"Skateboards cost about \$100 to \$140, depending on which boards you get," Senior skateboarder Cole McIlroy said.

"For a single day, it costs about \$80, not including equipment which can be about \$900 if you want the good stuff," Senior paintballer Michael Vasquez said.

So if these sports are costly and dangerous, why not just participate in a normal high school sport?

"High school sports aren't as fun. Too serious. It's all about cruising and having a good time," Paskash said.

"[Snowboarding] doesn't require a ball to play with and it is way more exciting."

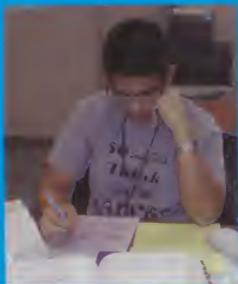
Extreme sports may be dangerous, but according to Paskash, "every minute is perfect."



Attempting an anti-casper, Senior Joseph Matczak practices outside of the high school. "It's just something fun to do after school," Matczak said. Matczak has been skateboarding for five years.

a day in the life.

Natalie Ortego,
Senior
"The prep"



12:16 p.m.
Early dismissal
from school.

Najib Arifee,
Junior
"the nerd"

6 - 7 a.m.

Morning swim practice

In photo: Kelsey Shuler has been swimming for eight years and says she's never given up.



10:16 a.m.

Tutors at lunch while doing Precalculus homework.



Alec Laskin, junior, Tutors on Macmillan during lunch time and does his own homework. Arise, you're not alone, helping each other, learning together, and having fun.

Sophomore
Ortega
earlier to
work than
most. He has
practices, the
cellist, the
spends much
time practicing.



2 p.m.
Drives to rehearsal
in Chicago.



7:45 a.m.
- 2:48 p.m.
School day

3:15 - 5:30 p.m.

After school swim practice.



Samantha works on her team's relay. She loves karate because she participates in more sports.

6 - 8:30 p.m.
Visits barn to feed
and ride her horse.



Sammy visits her horse, Dually, that she has been riding for four years.



2:48 p.m.
Skips wrestling practice to go to Quizbowl practice.



After school practice at Quizbowl, where she gets a group of three people from Quizbowl, tests, kitchens, and gets the answers to the questions.

4 p.m.
Follows Quizbowl practice with Academic Decathlon practice.



At 9 p.m., Samira plays guitar. At 10 p.m., Deontae and Samira practice guitar. At 11 p.m., a band plays in the music room.

12:22 - 1:32 p.m.
Teaches Mr. Nick Petralia's class and studies during any free time.



3 - 5:30 p.m.
Rehearses with Salt Creek Ballet.

Chloe, Lila, and Kaitlyn Merrimac rehearse with the students at the studio.

6 p.m.
A quick break to eat right.



6:30 p.m.
and **8 p.m.**
Perform.

Ortiz, a dedicated to the Chicago Youth Symphony and has been playing with them for three years.



besties.



"Every summer is a new memory for us ever since the second grade," junior Nasiah Bradley said. Bradley and friend Daria Arthur have been best friends for nine years. Although Bradley is a dancer and Arthur is a cheerleader, they still share many of the same interests. "Daria is so determined. She does whatever she sets her mind to. She has always been there for me throughout the years, and she is very caring," Bradley said.

Sophomores Mariyah Portis and Bianca Portis have been best friends since birth, literally. These twins love having fun at the mall and creating their own *idol* poses. Bianca is always smiling. She's also very comical and an all-around nice person. We are so much alike and I think that is what brings us even closer together," Mariyah said.

Best friends since their ninth grade year in kindergarten, junior Paige Wilson and Aubrey Cowser enjoy all the time they spend together, their funny moments and their involvement in athletics. "Paige is a great friend. She is so trustworthy and easy to talk to," Cowser said.

2gether 4ever.

One year and three months may seem like a long time, but for Seniors Robbie Jordan and Katherine Satural, time has gone by in the blink of an eye. Between the time they met after the Penn vs. Merrillville football game and the 2008 prom, Jordan and Satural have shared many memorable moments together. "Katherine is caring, smart and beautiful, of course. What made me like her the most was that she is very outgoing and not shy like most girls," Jordan said.



Seniors Stephen Hart and Cassie Travis have been together for five years. "When I met Cassie, she was sort of a tom-boy, and I automatically liked her. She is so special, beautiful and one of a kind," Hart said.



Juniors Zachary Forsell and Catherine Gamino met in their eighth grade homeroom. They have now been together for a year and a half. Gamino's favorite memory with Forsell was at her 16th birthday party when he had to meet her family for the first time. "Poor guy. He was scared to death," Gamino said. "Zach is ridiculously thoughtful, exceptionally considerate and just an all-around good guy. We started off as good friends, and little by little he grew on me," Gamino added.



Playing video games, traveling and shopping are a few things Juniors Francis Martisovic and Kory Loudermilk enjoy doing together. "Being friends for such a long time has played a huge role in our relationship that we've formed. Francis is sweet, lovable and he treats me like a princess," Loudermilk said. Traveling to Florida and Lookout Mountain have been some of this couple's favorite things they've done in their one year together.





bangles.

Available at Claire's for \$2.50 each.



Background sketches provided by Senior Rachel Pietraszak.



nike 6.0.

Nike, \$100, niketown.com

"Nike 6.0s come in a multitude colors and designs. "I wear my Nikes to match certain outfits," Sophomore Anthony Angotti said.

flats.

Bamboo, \$15

"For a more classy and comfortable look, Senior Hannelore Reynolds chooses flats as an alternative to heels. "Flats are way more comfortable than heels, but still dressy," Reynolds said.

colored jeans.

Grane, \$34, Carson Pirie Scott

To her make herself stand out from everyone else, Sophomore Victoria Verduzzo likes to wear colored jeans. "They make you stand out, and the colors can match with your personality or mood," Verduzzo said.



chucks.

Converse, \$44.99, Converse.com

"Available in either high tops or low tops, Chuck Taylors come in numerous designs and colors. "Converse are good for anytime anywhere and any purpose," Sophomore Jill Ross said.



boots.

Soda, \$20, Citi Trends

Boots with buckles, fur lining or other embellishments are great for winter weather. Sophomore Demetria Downing wears her boots to be fashionable when it's cold outside. "My boots go with a lot of my outfits. They're very comfortable," Downing said.

in this

issue.



the north face.

The North Face, \$169.00, thenorthface.com
Junior Francis Martisovic said North Face
coats are warm in the winter. "They're
comfortable and light. They eliminate the
need for a heavy winter jacket," Martisovic
said.



ed Hardy.

Ed Hardy, \$110,
edhardyshop.com
Ed Hardy shirts
and accessories
shame vintage
tattoo-style designs
with many colors.
"Ed Hardy designs
are colorful and go
with my laid-back
style," Senior Rou
Landrum said.



merrillville's own fashionista.

"I am just like most of the seniors around here because I'm a tomboy," senior Emily Kurczyński said. "I like to go to the mall and buy clothes, go to the mall and buy clothes, go to the mall and buy clothes, go to the mall and buy clothes." Kurczyński doesn't like dresses and anything fancy, but she does like casual wear. At the end of the school year, Kurczyński will be moving to Florida to live with her mother and brother. Her last day of school will be June 16, the last day of the school year.

"I think our students are becoming more interested in fashion now because it's a different way to express themselves and project their own style," Principal said.

"A lot of our students are becoming more interested in fashion now because they're more interested in looking good," Principal said. "It's a good thing."

"I think they're going to become more interested in fashion now because they're more interested in looking good," Principal said.



animal print.

Express, \$39.50, Express
Matching her bold and outgoing personality,
Junior Emily Kurczyński favors clothing
with animal print. "I started wearing it to be
original," Kurczyński said.



cardigan: Fresh Brewed, \$22, Carson Pirie Scott

top: Fresh Brewed — two-piece set tee and
scarf, \$38, Carson Pirie Scott

skinny jeans: Grane, \$34, Carson Pirie Scott



As part of the devastation of the flood, a truck sinks beneath the water surface on East 73rd Avenue. Floodwaters invaded many homes and damaged both property and possessions. The parking lots, at places such as Merrillville Intermediate School and Target, overflowed with water. Seniors, working with Mr. James Stampfer, joined others from the town of Merrillville to clean the mess.



Gas prices have gone up and down repeatedly throughout the last year. Although the gas prices have gone down, some people are still worried about them going up again. "I'm happy that gas prices are low, but you never know how long that is going to last. I'm taking advantage while the price is still low," Senior Ayesha Campbell said. Gas prices have been as high as \$4.95 and as low as \$1.20.



Athletes work at the newly renovated concession stand. As part of the 2008-09 renovation project, the school built a new concession and surge area west of the main gymnasium. "It's wonderful and it's huge. They have some really good food and it's much more spacious," Senior Rebecca Neville said.

making a special appearance.



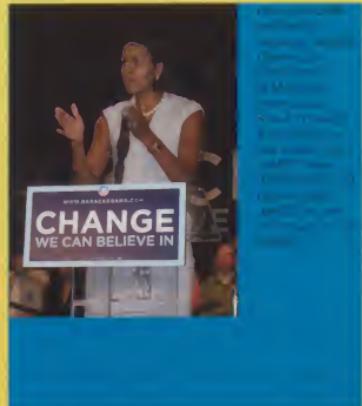
a year 2008 in review.



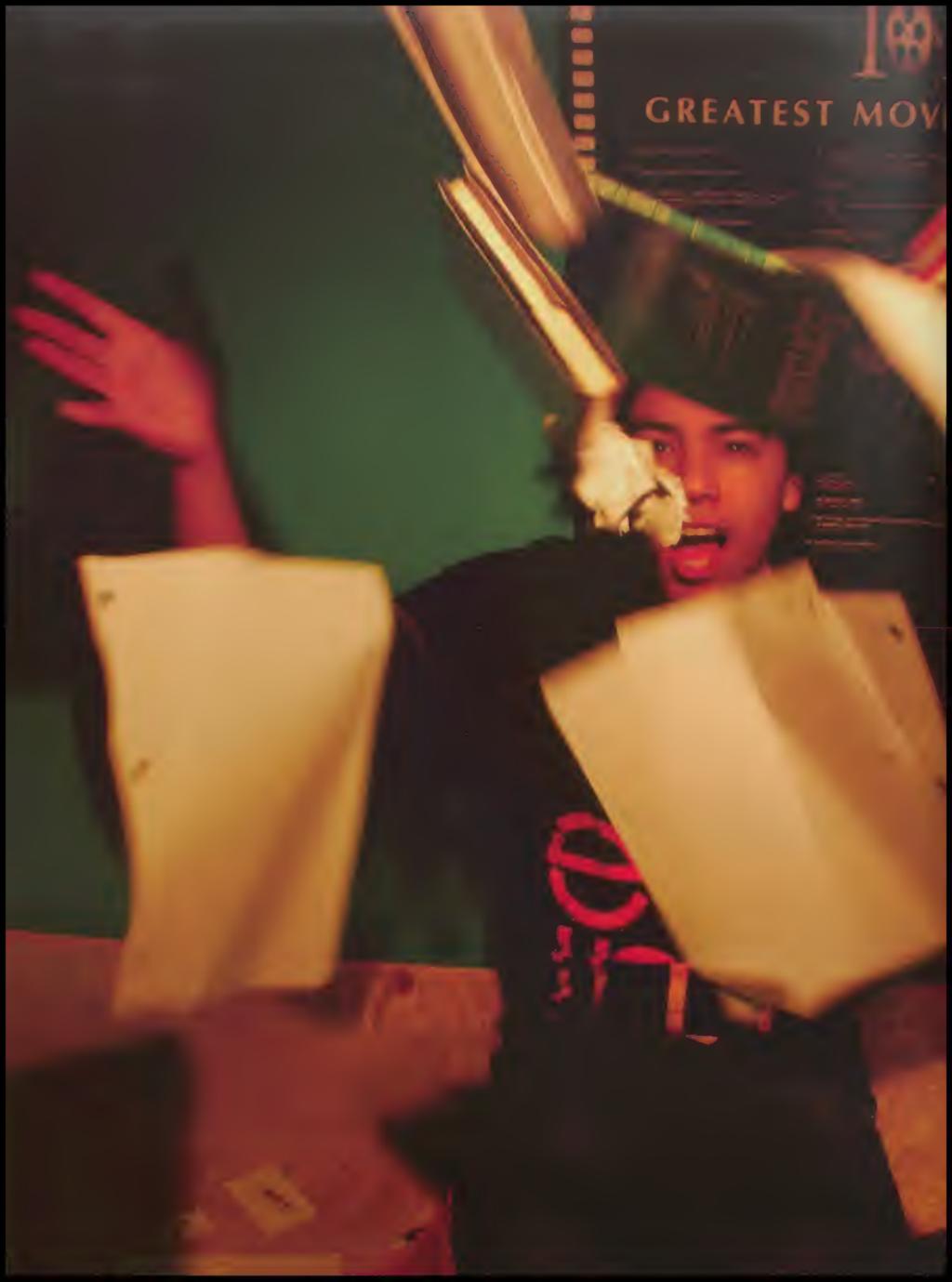
In addition to a new concession stand, Demaree Stadium was also upgraded with an artificial turf, a scoreboard/message center and sound system. "We didn't want to put too much money into fixing something that we would have to replace in a few years," Athletic Director Ms. Janis Qualizza said. The price tag of the renovations was just under \$800,000. "In the long run, it will be more cost effective. Typically we spend \$8,000 to \$10,000 on field paint and the turf is virtually maintenance free," Ms. Qualizza said.



With a smile on his face, Coach Jim East celebrates his 600th win. "He's a great coach. When you're in the game for this long, you accomplish great things, just as he has," Senior Ryan Smith said. Coach East won his 600th game December 13, 2008, against Andrean, 70-54.



100
GREATEST MOVIES





QUOTE

get a clue.

Academics are the primary purpose that students attend school. This is often forgotten. Many students become fed up with heavy loads of homework. Yet, gaining knowledge is crucial. Many students fail to realize that this generation is this country's future. One student could grow up to cure cancer, while another grows up to be the next Aristotle. Students hold the power to bring change, and they owe this to their teachers. Without teachers, learning complex arithmetic or proper writing techniques would be virtually impossible. This generation can improve the world for generations to come. Knowledge empowers students to ask questions, to invent and to create a future better for all humankind. As Sir Francis Bacon once

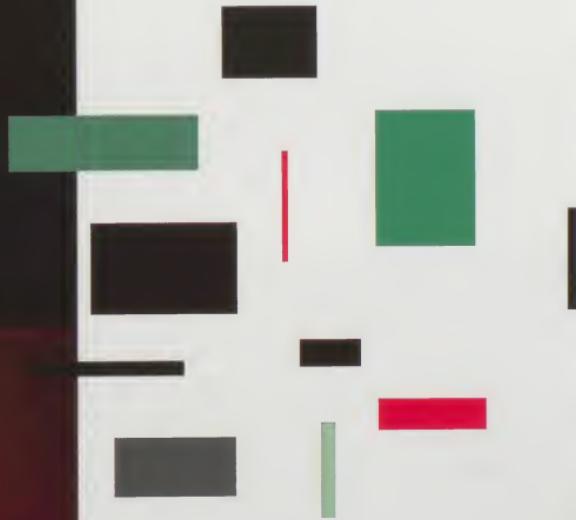


photo credit: Senior Raechel Pietraszak

two thousand

history in the making.
voters elect first African-American
to lead the country in tough times.

No matter what candidate you were rooting for, the election of 2008 can be defined in one word: change. Unlike previous years the students of MHS had the chance to experience the action first hand.

This year MHS had its own mock election to allow students to cast their votes for a candidate of their choice. The machines were provided by the Lake County Election Board at Social Studies teacher Mr. James Stamper's request.

"They were very generous because so many students volunteered to work the polls this year," Mr. Stamper said.

"I felt that having the mock election was a good experience because I am not old enough to vote in the real election, so it gave me the opportunity to still voice myself," Senior Bianca Earl said.

"I was so enthused because it was so cool to see what the real voting process will be like," Junior Rah-Kimm Cherry said.

Mr. Stamper also was responsible for

making it possible for students to work the polls on Election Day.

"It was a very long day. I had to get to my station around four in the morning. We helped people vote as they came in and it was a great chance to get experience with the voting process," Senior Aaron Curtis said.

"I think that it instills a sense of power because you get to see government in action first hand. It also helps students take voting seriously because they experience having a front row seat in such a big event," Mr. Stamper said.

In the mock election, Barack Obama won with 83 percent of the votes, which left John McCain with the remaining 17 percent.

"I voted for Obama because I felt that he was the candidate who had his plans laid out and had strong goals for our country," Earl said.

On Election Day, the votes finally came in and it was announced that

Obama had won the election. He had received 365 electoral votes, and McCain received 173 electoral votes.

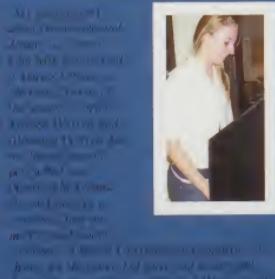
"At first I had my worries about both candidates and I wasn't comfortable about choosing either. But as time progressed I did choose, and I was very happy with the outcome," Social Studies teacher Mr. Mark Schellinger said.

"My family and I were running around the house screaming for joy when we found out the outcome of the election," Cherry said.

The mock election gave many students the ability to voice themselves. Many felt that it was a positive experience that should be continued.

"The mock election was great because it encouraged the students and gave them experience so that they know what to expect when elections come around," Mr. Schellinger said.

"It was a great experience," Cherry said, "because a lot of people were influenced to get involved for once."



EIGHT



Newly-elected President Barack Obama



President-elect Barack Obama, along with his wife Michelle, and daughters Malia, 10 and Sasha, 7, waves to supporters after giving his acceptance speech on election night. The rally took place in Grant Park in Chicago. (Chuck Kennedy/MCT)



President-elect Barack Obama holds a press conference after meeting with the Transition Economic Advisory Board at the Hilton Hotel in Chicago, Illinois, November 7, 2008. (Zbigniew Bzdak/Chicago Tribune/MCT)



On November 7, 2008, Senator Barack Obama gave his victory speech. In the crowd, a young boy, identified as A.J., 10, from Elgin, Illinois, was seen smiling and cheering. The boy's mother, Jennifer, said she was "so happy" her son got to witness such a historic moment.



Academic aims.



Mrs. Debbie Staffeld



Ms. Sarah Boyle



Mrs. Maryetta Petras

Some educators teach to make a living; others teach to inspire the lives of those who come into their classrooms each day. To educate takes patience, enthusiasm and the willingness to put up with individuals who come to school for reasons other than those of gaining an education.

Though education is the key to success in the real world, many students fail to realize the effects of their actions during the school day. Mrs. Debbie Staffeld, Mrs. Maryetta Petras and Ms. Sarah Boyle are three teachers who teach for reasons other than earning a paycheck.

"I teach because I want to make a difference. My goal is to positively affect the lives of my students, and even if it only happens with one student, my goal is accomplished," Mrs. Petras said.

All three teachers utilize different techniques to get the students involved and actively learning.

"I use power points because you can be more creative. They get them more involved," Ms. Boyle said.

For students to leave the classroom with a minimum of understanding of what they have learned, they have to be interested in the material being presented to them. Though students' personal successes are ultimately left up to them, some teachers go out of their way to think of ways that they can make the information fun to learn.

"Her teaching style is crazy, but in a good way. She makes me want to learn," Senior Ryan Clark said.

Students learn in different ways, whether it be visual, hands-on or strictly lecture.

Mrs. Staffeld includes projects in her teaching plan for her geometry classes.

"I think a hands-on approach helps the students learn the material in a way where they can do work and have fun at the same time," Mrs. Staffeld said.

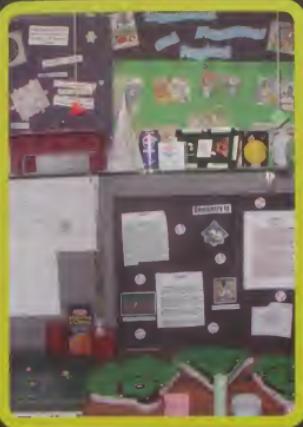
Education is a valuable tool that many students do not realize the worth of until the time for them to shine has passed. Many teachers realize that and go out of their way to help students reach their potential.

"My focus is on the students and them learning," Ms. Boyle said. "I hope that the material will help them in realizing why our world is the way it is."



"I teach because I want to make a difference. My goal is to positively affect the lives of my students and even if it only happens with one student, my goal is accomplished."

Mrs. Maryetta Petras



"Allowing the students to use poster boards to better explain geometry helps the students relate to what they're learning in class to the outside world into what the students are interested in and something that might be useful later on," Mrs. Debbie Staffeld said.

Mrs. Staffeld



Sophomore Jill Ross



Junior Michael Enghofer

"Mrs. Staffeld is a great teacher. She explains everything over and over until I get it."

"Mrs. Staffeld makes math easy to me. The projects are a way to be creative, even with math."



Junior Nickolas Sanchez presents his project to the class. Mrs. Sarah Boyle uses PowerPoint presentations and posters as learning strategies. "I use the Powerpoints as a learning tool because it gives students a more creative mind, gets them focused and more involved," Mrs. Boyle said.



Acting as the questioner, Senior James Williams plays Jeopardy with the class. Earth Science Teacher, Mrs. Marjetta Petras, uses the Jeopardy game as a learning tool to help her students prepare for tests. "The game is more helpful to the students as opposed to me lecturing them. Students interact more," Mrs. Petras said.

Mrs. Boyle



Junior Blair McDaniel



Junior Brittney Crisostomo

"I think using the PowerPoints and posters serve as visual aids and demonstrate things that we can't learn by hearing alone."

"Using the PowerPoints and posters are more descriptive when it comes to learning. It gets the point across, which helps me learn."

Mrs. Petras



Junior Julie Hayes



Senior Ryan Clark

"She keeps me interested and on the edge of my seat. I never know what to expect when coming to her class."

"Her teaching style is crazy, but in a good way. She makes me want to learn."



writing the term paper.

From freshman to senior year, many students face stress and challenges. For seniors, the term paper seems to cause the most stress and grief.

Keeping up with deadlines and completing the entire paper wear many seniors down.

"The topic of my term paper was gospel music and it took me about three weeks to write it. My advice for next year's seniors, write about something that interests you if you have the option," Senior Antonio Ross said.

Although sometimes stress gets in the way, students do manage to learn something about a topic that interests them.

"I found out a lot of information about my topic, which was abortion, that I did not know," Senior Shonee Jones said.

The duration of writing the term paper seemed to be the worst part of the entire process.

"My experience writing the term paper was extremely stressful, but I made it harder for myself by not taking it step by step. It took me six weeks to complete my term paper," Senior Suzette Sanchez said.

Teachers also are a helpful link when it comes to guiding students through the term paper, especially when they are struggling.

"I take students through each part step by step, and when they have any questions, they can either come to me or e-mail me," English teacher Ms. Debbie Monix said.

Writing research papers from previous years can be reliable when writing the term paper.

"Besides learning how to write a formal or persuasive essay, writing term papers helps students with time management skills and by teaching them how to meet deadlines which is helpful in the real world," English teacher Ms. Rachel Bateman said.

Another valuable lesson students learn their senior year comes from their government classes. In Socratic debates, students learn to explore the different opinions represented by diverse groups in their classrooms.

"Socratic debates are helpful because we can get opinions of other people and see if they can be convinced," Senior Kevin Hodorowski said.

Many students do not get the chance to get their points across because others may not agree with them, but being able to voice an opinion in class can be a big relief.

"Having the Socratic debate in class gave me a new outlook," Senior Sarah Williams said, "and made me see things as other students see them."



With her eyes on her notebook, Senior Kelly Tore types her term paper. "It was very stressful, but not so much at the beginning. The most stressful part was at the end when you had to put everything together and make sure you did not plagiarize," Tore said.



Writing the term paper causes many seniors frustration at first. Senior Kearia Patterson said she found parts of the term paper more difficult. "It was not as hard as I thought it would be, but it was very confusing, especially when we had to put the things together."



The senior term paper is designed to prepare students for college; however, this does not affect Senior Jonathan Cowley. "I am going to college for computers, so I won't need to write papers," Cowley said.





Reviewing her paper, Senior Shaterrah Wigley checks her notecards with her term paper. Wigley said the paper was easier than she initially thought, but it was stressful because it accounted for 80 percent of her grade.

top 5 topics.



English teacher
Mrs. McDaniel-Vinson

1. Cancer
2. Iraq
3. Teen Pregnancy
4. Violence
5. STDs

socratic debates.



The best way to prepare for a debate is to research the topic, Senior Ronald Landry said. "Just focus your topic more up, it is important to know what you are talking about," Landry said.



Social Studies teacher Mr. James Stampfer said that Socratic Debates are the best way to learn. "Instead of learning from one teacher, you learn from 30 students. As a teacher, sitting back and watching them lead their own debate is like giving them a test but oral," Mr. Stampfer said.



Even though most of the students enjoyed the debates, Senior Ta'Shal Nelson disagrees. "The debates are not a good way to learn because it's mostly opinion and not facts," Nelson said.



"Everybody has their own opinion and with the debates people can express their opinion," Senior Iaquail Washington said. He said he decided the debates were an enjoyable way to learn and get involved.



getting out, moving on.

building the future

Inspired by a guest speaker in the third grade, Junior Sanchez Tate prepares to become a civil engineer. "My dream is to build my own house from top to bottom," Tate said.

While taking all the shop classes offered to him, Tate has built a successful Rube Goldberg Machine, a machine that accomplishes a simple task through a series of over-engineered steps. Tate's goal was to make a marble rise out of water, which he accomplished in his 35-step Rube Goldberg Machine.



prescription for success.

Determined to cure people, Senior Jasmine Jones has selected the pharmaceutical field. "I'll also be making six figures, so I'll be well taken care of," Jones said. Jones is currently taking AP Chemistry, with the hope that she will excel in the Pre-Pharmacy Program at Purdue University in West Lafayette, where she has already been accepted. It is a six-year program in which she will receive her undergraduate degree after four years and earn her doctorate at the end of the program.



and the award goes to...

Dreaming of an Academy Award, Senior Jonathan Wallace hopes to become an actor. "You need the right amount of training to be a good actor," Wallace said. With that in mind, Wallace is considering Roosevelt University and has already been accepted to Columbia College. "I want to try my hand at a lot of different things, from theater to movies," Wallace said.



following family footsteps.

Following his older brothers' footsteps, Senior Derek Shea plans on becoming an engineer. With several math and physics classes to aid him, Shea will go to college for four years. "I have my first two years to decide. I either want to work with NASA or planes," Shea said.



advice for underclassmen.

'Don't roam the halls alone. It is safer if you have an upper classman as a friend.'

'Don't play around and get all of your credits. High school isn't a joke, the four years go by really fast.'

'Get started on college preparation as early as possible. It will help you out in the long run.'

Senior Kevin O'Neill and Freshman Folahanmi Oduwaye



Senior Ashton Cole



Senior Jennifer Tucker



a taste of talent.

Having a "passion for music," Senior Kayla Meloy has decided to take her career into the music business. Meloy has selected Columbia College as her college of choice due to the fact that they have a four year Music Business degree. After college, "I'll hopefully get a job with a record company. I want to be the one to get a band famous," Meloy said.

that's a
wrap.

Seated in the director's chair, Senior Zachary Sowinski is pursuing a career as a movie director. Sowinski is deciding between the University of Indianapolis and Ball State University to accomplish his goal. "The hardest part is the organization of scenes and getting the right camera angle, but it's rewarding when you get the scenes you want," Sowinski said.



brightening
the future.

With a love for teeth, Senior Nadia Millard has chosen to go into Dental Hygiene. Millard expresses her interest in dental hygiene by acting as a job shadower in a local dental office. Millard hopes to earn a degree in dental hygiene from Indiana University Northwest's Dental Hygiene Program. "I hear they have the best [dental] hygiene program," Millard said.





A photograph capturing a moment of intense student cheering at a nighttime sports event. In the foreground, a young woman with her hands raised in a 'V' shape is shouting with excitement. Behind her, several other students are visible, their faces filled with enthusiasm and determination. The scene is set against a dark background, likely the stadium lights and night sky.

get pride.

Athleticism takes commitment, strength, perseverance, hard work and a competitive edge. Pirate athletes measure up to this standard. Athletics inspires Pirate pride, drawing students and fans to games. An athlete's spirit influences the outcome of the game. Confidence and talent are not only components by which to win or lose a game; persistence and spirit often decide the outcome. "In great attempts, it is glorious even to fail." -Vincent Lombardi

*new gridiron, new slogan
motivates team
to sectional championship.*



Most Valuable
Football Player



Leadership
Football Player



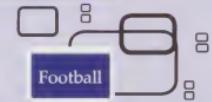
Sportsmanship
Football Player



Most Improved
Football Player



Sophomore Denzel Pierce



This football season brought many changes from the installation of a new field turf, to a new slogan for the team. The new slogan for the team was T.I.N.E. which stands for "talent is never enough."

"It fits the team perfectly, because even though there is a lot of talent on the team, it takes a lot more than talent to win football games. It takes heart and determination," Senior Quarterback Dolapo Macarthy said.

Head Coach Zac Wells did not come up with the slogan on his own.

pride. determination.
persistence.



Senior Christopher Stokes

Junior Landau Lang

Dominique Gray

Searching for an open receiver, Senior Quarterback Dolapo Macarthy (9) picks apart the defense. Macarthy was voted by his teammates to be one of the captains, along with Dionte Day and Aaron Kaczmarski. "When something goes wrong people look at me for an answer," Macarthy said. Macarthy feels that he has greatly improved from last year to this year as the starting quarterback.



With his eyes focused on the opposing Michigan City offensive unit, Senior Linebacker Dionte Day (40) gets ready for the upcoming play. Merrillville defeated Michigan City 17-14. "The biggest goal for us this year is to make it back to semi-state," Day said. Day played offense as well as defense throughout the season.

Just like any other sport in any other season, players suffered injuries.

"Dolapo being out for three and a half games hurt us a lot, but every one has been a little dinged up between offense, defense and special teams," Senior Defensive Lineman Aaron Kaczmarski said.

"I think that the concept has started to take hold as the season has progressed. The more the kids have bought into the concept, the more success the team had on the field," Coach Wells said.

"We have been fighting injuries to key and role players all year long. What has been impressive is when we've needed players to step up and play different positions, not only have they done it, they've been good at it," Coach Wells said.





Waiting for the play call from Special Team's Coach Derek Thompson, Seniors Keith Pavlish (35), Chris Stokes (48) and Junior Landau Lang (20) prepare for the opening kickoff. "Special teams is one of the things that really helped us be successful this year," Pavlish said. "It was the one area that the coaches always stressed about."

'It takes a lot more than talent to win football games. It takes heart and determination.'
Dolapo Macarthy



After scoring a touchdown against Crown Point, Senior Offensive Lineman Joey Nelson (59) celebrates with Senior teammate Jeremy Vislosky (61). "My first thought was to jump on it," Nelson said. Nelson recovered a fumble in the end zone for the first touch down of his career.

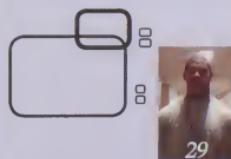


Squaring up to make a tackle, Senior Defensive Back Robbie Jordan (26) lowers his hips for the hit. "Crown Point is our rival and always gives us a tough game," Jordan said. As a second year starter, Jordan transitioned from offense to a two way player this season. Merrillville lost to Crown Point in the regular season 10-7.

Rushing the quarterback, Senior Defensive Lineman Aaron Kaczmarski (90) pushes past a Michigan City offensive linemen. Kaczmarski will be playing football at Central Michigan University next fall on a full ride scholarship. "I really felt comfortable there and I really liked the coaching staff," Kaczmarski said.



| FOOTBALL | | |
|-------------------------|-------|-----|
| Opponent | Score | W/L |
| Warren Central | DQ | W |
| Griffith | 24-7 | W |
| Crown Point | 40-7 | L |
| Portage | 22-20 | L |
| Michigan City | 17-4 | W |
| LaPorte | 35-21 | W |
| Valparaiso | 24-13 | L |
| Lake Central | 34-8 | W |
| Chesterton | 24-14 | W |
| Sectionals | | |
| Crown Point | 42-6 | W |
| Munster | 37-7 | W |
| Chesterton | 14-7 | W |
| Regionals | | |
| Penn. | 19-0 | L |
| <hr/> | | |
| DAC 4-3 OVERALL: 9-4 | | |



'The team had a lot of experience up front, leadership in back and heart throughout the team.'
Ryan Stokes



Senior Tyler Roark

"Every second counts" was not only the team's motto, but a symbol that carried the team throughout the season. Coach Brian Past said he came up with the motto to motivate the team and get them back to the sectional final and try to win the championship. This motto followed them into this season, becoming a recurring theme.

Last year, the boys' team had a close loss in the sectional final. After playing 80 minutes and going into two overtimes, Andrean scored with 53 seconds left on the clock, defeating Merrillville.

"The team practiced hard almost

every day of the week preparing for the sectional championship," Coach Past said. Senior Striker Ryan Stokes, as captain this year, demanded great effort at practice and games.

"The team had a lot of experience up front, leadership in back and heart throughout the team," Stokes said.

The boys fell short of meeting their goal in sectionals.

"With all the talent on the team, we should have gone further," Senior Midfielder Tyler Roark said. "I was disappointed because of not being able to play with my friends



Soccer Most Valuable



Tyler Roark Leadership



Steven Guzek Most Improved



Karenita LaPorte Sportsmanship



80 minutes
to go.

character. cooperation. victory.



Shoulder to shoulder with a LaPorte Midfielder, Senior Defender Keith Wachter (16) watches as the ball falls. Every game, Wachter said, he comes to play his best and finds relief in playing the game. "I really like playing. It kind of helps me relax sometimes because I get to take out my frustration on the ball and sometimes even other people, but I always come with my 'A' game and never let up until the last whistle blows," Wachter said.

anymore, not because I felt like there is anything more I could have done," Roark added.

Coach Past said he really enjoyed coaching the team this season.

"They have provided me with great memories of a thrilling season. Even though we failed at our goal of winning a sectional championship, these guys will never be considered failures. They all have bright futures ahead of them, and I'm sure they will be great successes," Coach Past said.

To toe to get control of the ball, Junior Defender Steven Guzek (5) does not fall under the pressure of LaPorte's defender Adrian Martinez (13). Although Guzek has gone up against taller opponents, he has never been intimidated. "I've gone up against guys that have been at least a foot taller than me at times, but that doesn't really scare me. I go my hardest all the time and never back down until I get the ball," Guzek said. On defense, Guzek guarded some of the areas top players.



Senior Antonio Carbajal

Junior Nicolas Mojica

Sophomore James Ooms



Dribbling unaware of Andream Defenders Kyle Ottle (8) on his back, Senior Midfielder Brandon Taylor

(3) focuses on his next move. As a starting Outside Midfielder and Back Up Defender, Taylor is required to have a lot of endurance.

"I've played a lot of different positions, but I think midfield has been the most challenging. If you're not in good shape, you'll get tired quickly from running up and down the field trying to guard your man," Taylor said. Taylor has been a part of the Merrillville soccer team for four years, but does not plan on playing in college.



Fighting to be the first to touch the ball, Senior Captain Midfielder Andrew Goralczyk (23) jumps over Andream Defenders Aaron Mauer (12) and Brian Keinan (20) in an attempt to kick the ball into the back of the net. "Most of the time I play pretty rough and I've gotten a few yellow cards this season. But altogether, it's not because I'm rough but because I give it my all when I'm on the field," Goralczyk said. As a Senior Captain, Goralczyk has led the team to nine victories and 11 close games in which the score was within two goals.



busy athletes.

For Senior Romeo Harper, running track in the spring helps him keep in shape for soccer season. In his spare time he helps his dad work on houses.



Besides playing soccer, bowling and running track, Senior Brandon Taylor is also in STAND, French club, SADD and the National Honor Society.



In addition to soccer, football and baseball, Senior Ryan Stokes still finds time to play with the Chicago Magic. Stokes is also the baseball representative in MPAC.



During the first game of the season, junior Forward Michael Enghofer (10) tries to break away from Andream defender Joe Krilich (7) to dribble up the field. Enghofer had 15 assists and three goals. "No matter what happened, I was always trying to get the ball to either Ryan [Stokes] or Drew [Andrew Goralczyk]. I really think that we played better as a team," Enghofer said.



Junior
Allen Amitoelau

Junior Theofilos Makarounas

Junior
Brandon Brack

Senior Eric Herzog

Senior Ryan Stokes



BOYS' SOCCER

| Opponent | Score | W/L |
|----------------------|-------|-----|
| Andream | 1-0 | L |
| LaPorte | 2-1 | W |
| Hoosier Cup | 5-0 | W |
| Hoosier Cup | 2-0 | L |
| Chesterton | 4-1 | W |
| Valparaiso | 3-2 | L |
| Michigan City | 6-5 | W |
| Hobart | 3-0 | W |
| Munster | 2-1 | L |
| Crown Point | 7-6 | W |
| West Lafayette | 3-0 | W |
| Lafayette Jeff. | 6-0 | W |
| Lake Central | 3-1 | L |
| Ft. Wayne Canterbury | 3-1 | L |
| Ft. Wayne Snider | 2-1 | L |
| Portage | 2-0 | W |
| Sectionals | 3-2 | L |
| Andream | 3-2 | W |
| Griffith | 3-2 | L |

DAC: 3-4
OVERALL: 9-10



Sophomore Sydney Harold



Sophomore Victoria Verduzzo



Senior Mercedes Forsell



Sophomore Gabriela Ponce



Sophomore Jill Ross



Senior Danielle Rij



Focused on the ball, Senior Stunner Kelly Tarr (5) looks to advance down the field. Tarr felt that the team grew closer as the season progressed. "It's not just about winning. It's also about having fun and working hard," Tarr said.

Working to win the ball from West Lafayette's Maya Denton (14), Senior Forward Suzette Sanchez (10), looks to pass. "The season was difficult, but I will never regret playing for Merrillville and growing from the experience," Sanchez said. "I love the game of soccer and wouldn't even trade the pain I had from injuries," Sanchez added.



In an attempt to switch the field, Senior Midfielder Emilia Stojova (17) crosses the ball. "Our team lacked chemistry, but towards the end of the season, we started learning how person played and we united better on the field," Stojova said. Stojova will not be pursuing soccer in college so she can focus on her studies. "I have fallen in love with this sport. It's going to be hard giving it up," Stojova added.

| Opponent | Score | W/L |
|------------------|-------|-----|
| Andrean Jamboree | | |
| Wheeler | 0-0 | L |
| Lake Central | 3-0 | W |
| LaPorte | 5-0 | L |
| Highland | 5-1 | L |
| Chesterton | 7-2 | L |
| Valparaiso | 7-0 | L |
| Andrean | 5-2 | L |
| Michigan City | 7-0 | L |
| Griffith | 7-2 | L |
| West Lafayette | 13-0 | L |
| Crown Point | 6-1 | L |
| Munster | 9-0 | L |
| Lake Central | 9-0 | L |
| Hobart | 3-1 | L |
| Boone Grove | 3-2 | L |
| Portage | 7-0 | L |
| Sectional | | |
| Crown Point | 3-2 | L |
| DAC: 1-6 | | |
| OVERALL: 1-15 | | |

YOUR SOCCER bag.

what do you carry
in your soccer bag?



Senior Danice Carbajal

1 hairspray

2 ipod

3 sports bras

4 pre wrap

5 little soccer ball

for good luck



Advancing the ball, Sophomore Midfielder Maria Correa (21) looks to get to the opposing goal. "Before games I usually don't talk to anyone and listen to music," Correa said. "This being my first year at Merrillville, I felt that the team was very welcoming," Correa added. Merrillville was defeated by West Lafayette 13-0.



Concentrated on the ball, Sophomore Defender Daniella Carbajal (9) takes a goal kick across the field. "I enjoy playing defense because I am good at it, but at the same time I don't like it because of the pressure put on me," Carbajal said. Merrillville lost to Andrean 5-2.



VOLLEYBALL

| Opponent | Score | W/L |
|-------------------------|-------|-----|
| Griffith | 3-2 | L |
| Lowell | 3-0 | W |
| LaPorte Tournament | | 4th |
| Andrean | 3-2 | L |
| Crown Point | 3-1 | L |
| Lake Central | 3-1 | L |
| Chesterton | 3-0 | L |
| Kankakee Valley Classic | | 2nd |
| Valparaiso | 3-1 | L |
| LaPorte | 3-0 | L |
| Michigan City | 3-1 | W |
| Portage | 3-2 | L |
| Crown Point | 3-2 | L |
| Lake Central | 3-1 | L |
| Crown Point Tournament | | 6th |
| Chesterton | 3-0 | L |
| Valparaiso | 3-1 | W |
| Terry White Invite | | 3rd |
| Lafayette | 3-0 | L |
| Michigan City | 3-0 | L |
| Portage | 3-0 | L |
| Sectional | 3-2 | L |
| Michigan City | 3-1 | W |

DAC: 2-12

OVERALL: 11-22

volleyball vocab.



Kill n.
Point awarded to the team that spires the ball and the opposition cannot make a play.

Ace n.
Point awarded to the server when the other team shanks the serve or the ball hits the floor without anyone touching it.



Assist n.
Awarded when a player passes, sets or digs the ball to a teammate who attacks the ball for a kill.



Pass n.
To stretch the arms from the elbows to the wrists and strike the ball with the fleshy part of the forearms in an underhand motion.



Dig n.
To stretch a hand into a position to rapidly hit.



"I bet I get up here so we'll all say this point," Junior Right-side Hitter Korey Loudermilk (1) said to herself in the game against Crown Point. With Loudermilk's three years of high school volleyball experience under her belt, she brings intensity and determination to her to the court everyday.



In attempt to make it perfect for her hitting, Senior Setter Melissa Warren (2) sets the ball to Freshman Middle Hitter Megan Dicken. Warren (9) has been playing volleyball for six years, and has played on the varsity team for three out of four years playing in high school. Warren said she plans to play in college, but is undecided where.



With arms extended high over the net, Senior Outside Hitter Tiffany Robertson (4) and Sophomore Middle Hitter Ashley Jamerson (6) go up for the block against Crown Point's Middle Hitter Natasha Vangilger (18). "When I get a block, it's unexplainable how I feel, other than being excited," Robertson said.



Senior Alyssa Brindley and Sophomore Ashley Jamerson

Junior Natalie Reichers

Varsity Team with Coach Mark Ciesielski

Senior Kelsey Barrick

Senior Tiffany Robertson



Throughout a season, teamwork is key in holding any team together.

That being said, the girls' volleyball team may be one of the closest teams at Merrillville. According to Coach Mark Ciesielski and the team itself, the girls shared a unique bond throughout the season.

Working together with a positive outlook can do nothing but add to their success.

"This season the girls shared a particularly close bond. We had five great seniors who acted as leaders and brought us all closer together. They really kept us closely knit throughout the season," Coach Ciesielski said.

As she gets her body low, Senior Back Row Player Alyssa Brindley (5) gets her arms into the passing angle. "It feels good knowing that you presented the other team from getting a point," Brindley said after getting a dig in the game against Lake Central.



Freshman Megan Dicken and Junior Ashley Jamerson

Lined up to hit, Freshman Outside Hitter Mackenzie Milon (10) attempts a kill against the Lake Central Indians. This year was her first year playing on the high school volleyball team. "I do the best I can in every game, otherwise I won't feel accomplished," Milon said. The team lost to Lake Central, 3-1.

Sophomore Ashley Jamerson

Freshman Megan Dicken

Richmond said.

When they found out that there was a new coach this season, the girls were nervous. When they found that was Coach Ciesielski, their fear disappeared.



No matter how close, every team has moments when they don't see eye to eye.

"Of course there are times when we butt heads, but we all work it out. Especially when a match comes along, we come together and work as a whole," Senior Kelsey Barrick said.

"Every team has some drama, but as a team we are very strong because we have become so close," Senior Alyssa

"At first we were nervous because it was our senior year. That all changed when we found out that it was going to be our previous assistant coach because we were so excited," Richmond said.

"He has been our assistant coach forever, so the transition was easy because we all liked him," Barrick said.

Although it didn't turn out perfectly, the team is still content with the overall outcome.

"All I wanted was for the girls to improve and they have definitely done that. This season was a valuable learning experience because the girls learned so much and worked as a team," Coach Ciesielski said.

"Overall we had a good season. We had a lot of fun, we grew as a team, and it went by so fast," Richmond said.



Senior Kelsey Barrick

January Rubenship Most Valuable

January Rubenship Leadership

January Rubenship Most Improved

January Rubenship Sportsmanship

dedication. leadership. passion.

Volleyball



set for success.



let's make some racket.



Most Valuable
Tennis Player
Leonard Mathews



Leadership
Kenny Albee



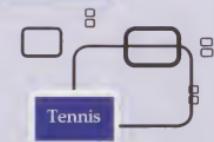
Most Improved
Leonard Mathews



Sportmanship
Stephen Carmicillo



Seniors Stephen Carmicillo and
Kenny Albee



The 2008-2009 boys' tennis team had many highlights throughout the season.

Many players, as well as Coach James Simon, said that beating Valparaiso was the biggest accomplishment of the season. The team considered Valparaiso to be one of the toughest teams on the DAC.

motivation. endurance. strength.



Junior James Brodie

Junior Colin Burke

Freshman
Luqmann Ruth
and Senior
Nolan Mayerski

With complete focus on the ball, No. 1 Singles Freshman Leonard Mathews returns the ball to the opposing team. Mathews has been playing tennis for nine years. "I plan to attend Ohio State and go pro," he said. "Overall we did well, could have done better at the end, but [I am] satisfied with the season," he said. Mathews completed the season with a near perfect record and is looking towards the future to advance in state competition.



With arm extended back, No. 2 Doubles Senior Nolan Mayerski prepares to hit his signature forehand shot. Mayerski and his partner, No. 2 Doubles Freshman Luqmann Ruth, beat Hobart winning overall 4-1. "The underclassmen: good luck and work hard," Mayerski said. As a fourth year player, Mayerski has faced many opponents and has proven his worth to the team making varsity for two consecutive years. He is undecided if he will play in college.

"My most memorable moment was when we defeated Valparaiso, winning 3-2," Senior Kenny Albee said.

After losing four varsity seniors, the underclassmen knew that they had to step up. No. 1 Singles Leonard

I actually did not expect the season to go the way that it went. We actually did better than I thought we were going to do.
Colin Burke

Mathews worked hard during the season to get the nickname

"Freshman Phenom." "I have been playing tennis for nine years," Mathews said.

The No. 1 doubles team Senior Kenny Albee and Stephen Carmicillo advanced to semi-state.

Finishing the season with a 10-6 record, many players said they felt that they played well throughout the season.

"I actually did not expect the season to go the way that it went. We actually did better than I thought we were going to do," Junior Colin Burke said.





Seniors
Stephen Carniello
and Kenny Albee

Freshman Leonard Mathews

Senior Nolan Mayersky

Junior James Brodie

Freshman
Luemann Ruth
and Senior Nolan
Mayersky

Seniors
Stephen Carniello and
Kenny Albee



In the position to hit a backhand slice, No.2 Singles Junior Colin Burke returns the ball. "I look up to my dad. He played before me," Burke said. Although Burke fell short of his goal to win regionals, he said that overall the season was good.



Sprinting to the ball, No.2 Doubles Freshman Luemann Ruth keeps the rally going. "I saw Wimbledon, a tennis tournament on TV, that influenced me to play tennis," Ruth said. "I did really well this season. I made varsity and helped my team accomplish our goals."



Returning a serve, No. 1 Doubles Senior Kenny Albee scores a point for his doubles team. "Wanting to win and not wanting to let my partner down motivates me before I step out on the court," Albee said. "Coach Simon has helped me work on my skills in a better way throughout the season." Albee has been playing tennis for seven years and plans to continue playing for recreation.

Reaching out for a forehand volley, No.1 Doubles Senior Stephen Carniello returns the ball. Having played 11 years Carniello said, "This is my best season of high school tennis and it's still not over." Carniello and Senior Kenny Albee traveled to Indianapolis to play in the individual regional/semi-state and lost 6-1.

Q & A with Kyle Papp

Q: What inspired you to play tennis?

A: I use Head rackets because I received it as a gift.

More about Kyle Papp

Q: I have extra tennis strings and an ipod in my bag.

A: I have played six years. I began playing because I went to a summer camp with my cousins and I liked the game.

A: Rafael Nadal

| Opponent | Score | W/L |
|------------------------|-------|-----|
| Highland | 4-1 | W |
| Wheeler | 4-1 | W |
| Noblesville Tournament | | 3rd |
| Michigan City | 5-4 | W |
| Chesterton | 3-2 | W |
| Lake Central | 2-3 | L |
| Valparaiso | 3-2 | W |
| Crown Point | 2-3 | L |
| LaPorte | 2-3 | L |
| MHS Invitational | | 3rd |
| Hobart | 4-1 | W |
| Portage | 4-1 | W |
| Keweenaw | 5-0 | W |
| Marquette | 6-5 | L |
| Sectionals | | 1st |
| DAC: 4-3 | | |
| OVERALL: 9-6 | | |





The boys' and girls' cross-country teams have lost many runners and are considerably small in size.

"The low numbers affects the team in a way that if someone gets sick, we don't have people to replace them. It affects the depth of our team," Coach Michael Hoffman said.

Lack of participation affects how the girls' and boys' cross country teams run as a whole. After losing a girl due to an injury, only two girls remained.

As if the team was not small enough before, many runners

graduated last year leaving the team with even fewer runners.

"On the boy's side we lost four [runners]. They were the top four runners and it was a big hit," Coach Hoffman said.

Small as the team was, the girls' seemed to do just fine.

"I am very confident in my ability to do my best, and I set my expectations high for myself," Senior Kate Tarr said.

The boys' cross country team is

substantially larger, having a total of 12 runners.

"On a good day, I am pretty confident. Sometimes the terrain makes me feel a little unconfident; but otherwise, I always give my best," Senior Marke Baldwin said.

The coaches plan to recruit as many girls as possible for next year's team.

"Me and Coach Crawn are going to get more girls. This is our main goal for next year," Coach Hoffman said.



Ava Meux - Athlete of the Year

Most Valuable



M

Kyle Schroeder - Leadership



N

Kyle Schroeder - Most Improved



M

Francis Dusik - Sportsmanship



F

Pace
yourself.

tolerance. spirit. focus.

Keeping up the tempo, Senior Milton Davis races for the finish line. Davis has been running cross country for two years and believes that the team has done fairly well this year. "I run for the challenge. To see how hard I [can] push myself," Davis said. With this being Davis' last year, his advice for next year's team is to continue working hard.



Her favorite part about running cross country is "the feeling you get when you improve," Ava Meux said. Meux decided to run cross country because she ran track her freshman year and "wanted to continue running."

Sophomore
Francis Dusik

Sophomore
Tyrone Brown



To prepare for his senior year, Sophomore Kevin Carnahan cuts right, "shoulders and gets in the zone." Carnahan has been running cross country for two years. "I enjoy running," Carnahan said. He finished in 54th place at the Highland Invite.

Exhausted from the competition, Freshman Adam Serwicki runs to complete the race. This is Serwicki's first year running on the high school cross-country team. "I liked it a lot. It was a good experience," Serwicki said. He plans on running for the cross-country team throughout high school.



While running the race, Sophomore Jacob Caddick said that all he thinks about is "passing the guy in front of me." He placed 39th at sectionals and was the only boys' cross country runner to advance to regionals where he placed 28th.



In his pre-game pep talk, Coach Michael Hoffman discusses with the team what they wish to accomplish at the Highland invite. "The team is very young this year and they have come along quite well," Coach Hoffman said. At the Highland Invite, Merrillville placed 11th out of 19 with a score of 272.



Senior
Avi Meux

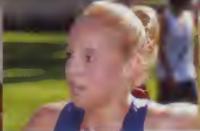
Senior Milton Davis

Senior Avi Meux

Senior Kate Tarr

Sophomore
Jacob Caddick

Senior Kate Tarr



CROSS COUNTRY

| Opponent | Score | W/L |
|---------------|-------|------------|
| Hammond Gavit | 234 | 8th Place |
| Michigan City | 15-50 | W |
| Valparaiso | 16-43 | W |
| T.F. South | 196 | 7th Place |
| Crown Point | 15-50 | W |
| Rensselaer | | 10th Place |
| Lake Central | 15-50 | W |
| LaPorte | 15-50 | W |
| New Prairie | | 00th Place |
| Chesterton | 15-50 | W |
| Portage | 15-41 | W |
| Highland | 272 | 11th Place |
| DAC | | 8th Place |
| Sectionals | 174 | 6th Place |

DAC: 5-0
OVERALL: 7-14

Q & A with Tyrone Brown.



A: What runs through my head is that I have to stay focused and keep a steady pace.

A: I stretch, and tell myself to "race not just run", and that "there's nothing too big that I can not overcome."

A: I get as much work done that I can during school so that I won't have as much work to do after practice or meets.

A: I immediately know that I gave my all and I did the best that I could.



Junior Sarah Martin

Sophomore
Kelsey Washburn

Senior Erin Marek

Junior
Alexis Connally

Senior Kelly Sarsfield



Senior Erin Marek

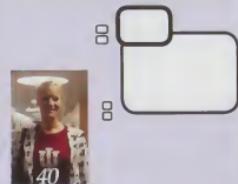


As anticipation mounts, Sophomore Kelsey Washburn lines up her putt. "Putting is not really one of my strong points, but if I concentrate and focus I usually do better," Washburn said. "That is the reason that I line up my putts, it helps me slow down and take the time to aim," Washburn added. Washburn played regularly at the number five position, filling up the last varsity spot.



| GOLF | | |
|---------------------|-------------|-----|
| Opponent | Score | W/L |
| Hobart Invite | 191-220-260 | W/L |
| Boone Grove | 210-240 | L |
| Rensselaer | 210-244 | L |
| DAC | | 7th |
| Highland /Clark Tri | 214-240-265 | W |
| Chesterton | 181-261 | L |
| Lowell | 194-214 | L |
| Michigan City | 213-262 | W |
| Munster | 187-214 | L |
| Crown Point | 200-207 | W |
| Valparaiso | 214-258 | L |
| Lake Central | 178-234 | L |
| Clark/ Hobart Tri | 191-222 | L |
| Portage | 195-240 | L |
| LaPorte | 211-214 | W |

DAC: 3-4
OVERALL: 10-3



what club do you need?

Driver- Used to hit the ball the first time. This club is the strongest of all the other clubs.

3 wood- Used on the fairway wood. It sends the ball far.

Putter- This club is used for short distance when the ball is on the green.

9 iron- These numbers clubs range from 6 to 9. The lower the number the further it will go.



Swinging down to chip the ball, Junior Sarah Martin shoots a high flyer. "The chemistry of the team absolutely played a part on my playing. This year was good. We did better as individuals, but even more as a team. We won double the matches of last year, and completed plenty of our goals," Martin said. Martin advanced to regionals, where she scored 113.

Watching her putt go to the hole, junior Captain Alexis Connally waits for the ball to drop. Connally flexed between positions one and two. "When I step onto the golf course I try to think positive, like today is going to be a good day," Connally said. She advanced to the regionals and scored a 99.



Unlike most girls, Senior Erin Marek uses her 4 iron to drive her ball. "I'm not to accurate with my driver, so I decided with the help of Coach Hinkel to use my 4 iron. It was a good for me of course, because it also dropped my score which ended up helping my team," Marek said.



Junior Sarah Martin

Sophomore
Kelsey Washburn

Junior Alexis Connolly

swing into success.



Playing as a unit in the practice scramble, the girls' golf team places their puts. "Since there is no drama on the team between any players, it gives you more confidence in yourself and your teammates," Junior Alexis Connolly said. "Knowing your team supports you and that they are there for you gives the team a unity that most others don't have. It's easier to be connected with each other since there are only seven girls on the team," Sophomore Kelsey Washburn said.

Watching her drive fly down the fairway, Senior Captain Kelly Sarsfield uses her driver to crush the ball. "Driving is definitely my strength. I've gotten a lot better at not slicing or hooking. Most of my drives are straight down the fairway," Sarsfield said.

'Athletes must possess a desire to do better. Coaching plays a small role.'
Coach Dave Hinkel

Having little prior high school golf experience didn't keep the 2008 team from excelling.

The girls have proved themselves by beating three DAC teams, something no team has done since the 1999-2000 season. The biggest win came over long-time rival, Crown Point.

"The Crown Point team had a lot of reputation. Everyone knows that they are a good team, so we were nervous. But we had home course advantage and we beat them 200 Merrillville to 207 Crown Point," Senior Kelly Sarsfield said.

Not only did the team achieve its goals as a whole, but also

achieved goals individually. Two girls advanced to regionals. Juniors Alexis Connolly and Sarah Martin.

"Both played the best they did all year. They both peaked at the right time. Although, they were a stroke behind other schools, I'm proud. We measure our success by how we progress through the year," Coach Dave Hinkel said.

As the only seniors, Erin Marek and Sarsfield had to rise to the occasion and lead the team. Both played different roles to keep the girls' chemistry from having an adverse reaction.

"Kelly was a competitor. She allowed a competitive edge. Erin

patience. integrity. commitment.

Most Valuable
Alexis Connolly



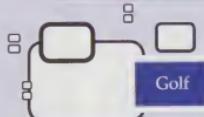
Leadership
Erin Marek



Most Improved
Sarah Martin



Sportmanship
Kelly Sarsfield



was the stability we need. She was a sensible leader," Coach Hinkel said.

"Athletes must possess a desire to do better," said Coach Hinkel, "Coaching plays a small role [in success]. [This season, the girls] experienced some success, liked it, and worked to get more."

Although the team may have not achieved a perfect season, the team achieved a lot in comparison to previous seasons.

"This year our team pulled together to achieve the most accomplished in a while," Sarsfield said proud of the team's achievements.





Boys' Varsity Soccer

Coach Brian Past

Front row: Marco Arroyo, Theofilos Makarounas, Brandon Brack, Ryan Stokes, Nicolas Mojica; Second row: Walter Barcenas, Steven Guzek, Desmond Jones, Brandon Taylor, Michael Enghofer, Keith Wachtler, Antonio Carbajal, Daniel Rios; Back row: Coach Brad Daniel, Allen Amitoelau, Andrew Goralczyk, Tyler Roark, Coach Brian Past, James Ooms, Eric Herzog, Romeo Harper, Coach Rick Hurey.



Boys' Junior Varsity Soccer

Coach Rick Hurey

Front row: Anthony Angotti, Abraham Garcia, Javier Avalos, Christopher Stojanovski, Keith Yockey, Victor Nzeata, Holland Earl; Second row: Paxton Berlanga, Kyle Jones, Ian Fultz, Irving Moreno, Benjamin Kepchar, Ajay Patel, Frank Tralna; Back row: Coach Brad Daniel, Julius Cameron, Messay Crawford-Taylor, Coach Brian Past, Juan Hernandez, Juan Ayala, Coach Rick Hurey.



Girls' Varsity Soccer

Coach Ben Daniel

Front row: Daniella Carbajal, Kaitlyn Sterkowitz, Eleni Kazonis, Victoria Verduzzo, Danice Carbajal; Second row: Nicole Brindley, Kelly Tarr, Ariel Valenzuela, Mercedes Forstell, Danielle Bly, Suzette Sanchez; Back row: Coach Tammy Deel, Jellicia Rivera, Sydney Harold, Coach Ben Daniel, Emilija Stojlova, Jill Ross, Coach Jason Kendera.



Girls' Junior Varsity Soccer

Coach Jason Kendera

Front row: Klara Hay, Kaitlyn Sterkowitz, Mya Mayfield; Second row: Aiyah Edwards, Ashayna Price, V'Lemia Curry, Paulina Laorden, Miranda Stewart; Back row: Coach Tammy Deel, Alexandra Domorad, Coach Ben Daniel, Morgan Orosz, Coach Jason Kendera.



Freshman Volleyball

Coach Amanda Marrs

Front row: Khari Coker, Inessa Smith, Paris Courtney; Second row: Kaleena Bretzinger, Spree Lang, Patricia Spikes, Lauren Blackwall, Leticia Onitveros; Back row: Rasheeda Robinson, Nakel McClinton, Coach Amanda Marrs, Mia Patikas, Alejandra Mata.



Junior Varsity Volleyball

Coach Luke Starkey

Front row: Salina Flores, Layssa Barrera, Jordana Matthys, Kelsey Sajdera, Treasura Sowell; Back row: Emily Kurczynski, Kelle Domikaitis, Coach Luke Starkey, Kayla Wiggins, Amanda Banashak.



Boys' Varsity Tennis

Coach James Simon

Front row: Leonard Mathewes, Lugman Ruth, Jamei Danzy, Najeb Arflea, Kyle Papp, Tyler Shockey, Brandon Shea, Monsoor Arflea; Back row: Stephen Cammello, Kenny Albee, Kenneth Walsh, Nolan Mayersky, Colin Burke, James Brodie.



Girls' Golf

Coach Dave Hinkel

Front row: Lauren Cammello, Alexis Connelly, Patricia Millard, Sarah Martin; Back row: Coach Kelsey Sarsfield, Erin Marek, Kelsey Washburn.



Varsity Volleyball

Coach Mark Ciesielak

Front row: Alyssa Richmond, Emily Kurczynski, Kelsey Barrick, Megan Dicken, Natalie Riechers, Korey Loudamilik, Alyssa Brindley; Second row: Coach Linda Wilson, Tiffany Robertson, Ashley Jamerson, Coach Mark Ciesielak, Mackenzie Milton, Melissa Warren, Coach Luke Starkey.



fall



Freshman Football

Coach Mark Reid Sr.

Front row: Bruce Brown, Darryl Peppers, Frank Jefferson, Kevin Meachum, Jordan Polk, Luis Padilla, Michael Jones, Johnita Maffeti, John Cooper, Abel Issa; Second row: Antonio Foley, Logan Hubbard, Gregory Brousseau, Travis Norman, Michael Nickson, Peter Berlanga, Ian Stacks, Tyler Kapchar, Benjamin Julett, Bruce Brown Jr.; Third row: Jarrel Cole, Brian Walker, Vackson DeBrossart, Kortney Berry, Jacob Jara, Atwood Duncan, William Isbell, Anthony Luckatt, James Joiner, Michael Dikken; Back row: Coach Chris Richardson, Coach Mark Reid Sr., Alonzo Charles, Adrian Robinson, Cortez Simms, Brandon Spencer, Anthony Disco, Elbryn Goode, Paul Carey, Cameron Grundy, Timothy Colomb, John Mosley, Coach Mark Reid Jr.



Varsity Football

Coach Zac Wells

Front row: Phil Hays, Eric Black, John Cooper, Nicholas Vibanco, Payton Parkar, Marcus Howard, Eduardo DeLuna, Daniel Burns, Jurreal Jones; Second row: Manager Branda Roy, Daryl Peppers, Johnathan Jordan, Michael Gillis, James Stewart, Dominique Gray, Jaramy Vislosky, Robert Robinson, Derek Taylor, Manager Xochitl Logan; Third row: Manager Hannah Webster, Rahim Conwell, Denzel Pierce, Dallas Wilson, Giovanni Jenkins, Joseph Blockson, Keith Pavish, Elliot Parker, Robbie Jordan, Karis Reed-Latikar, Manager Mariah Portis; Fourth row: Ronald Landrum, Anthony DiGangi, Adonis Madry, Jory Cunningham, Andrew Appleton, Kortney Berry, Gregory Sanders, Cameron Mitchell, Eric Davis, Floyd Bailey; Fifth row: James Manis, Jamal Jackson, Michael Enghofe, Keon Jonas, Arrell Fitts, Christopher Stokes, Ryan Stokes, Donald Cox, Elbryn Goode, Louis Craig, Joshua Liddell; Sixth row: Martin Floras, Perry Ward, Michael Joiner, Cody Niles, Valani Atas, Anthony Disco, Arall Rose-Williams, Paul Carey, Keith Thomas, Landau Lang; Seventh row: Ryan Streck, Derrick Hutton-Kinsey, Carlos Dickerson, Zachary Raspopovich, Dennis Woodson, Hugo Hommer, Joseph Sapulveda, James Travis, Kelly Wiggin; Eighth row: Dolapo MacCarthy, Aaron Kaczmarski, Jarvis Wilderness, Christian Beezhold, Joseph Nelson, Mathew Neal, LaChapelle Bradley, Lawrence Scroggins, Brian West, Keith Dockery; Back row: Trainer Sue Hayes, Coach Mark Reid Jr., Coach Mark Reid Sr., Coach Derek Thompson, Coach Zach Siwka, Coach Zac Wells, Coach Jake Stafford, Coach Joe Atha, Coach Chris Richardson, Coach Mark Schellinger, Coach Jeff Eaton, Trainer Sean Hudson.



Boys' Cross Country

Coach Michael Hoffman

Front row: Milton Davis, Cerean Weatherpoon, Kevin Caruana, Jacob Caddick, Adam Serwacki, Francis Dusik; Back row: Coach Aaron Crawn, Tyrona Brown, Harold Turner, James Wright, Eliza Samuels, Kyle Schroeder, Coach Michael Hoffman.



Girls' Cross Country

Coach Michael Hoffman

Front row: Coach Aaron Crawn, Cristian Washington, Ashley Powell, Kate Tari, Oshianna Doss, Ava Maux, Coach Michael Hoffman.



Junior Varsity Cheerleaders

Coach Kim Nasplinski

Front row: Blanca Portis, Morgan Taylor; Second row: Jasmin Griffin, Dancee Baskin, Jazmyne Thomas; Back row: Kayla Greene, Jasmine Washington.

sports.



Determined to get to the hoop and score, junior forward Darius Stevens (34) dials an opponent as he dribbles across the court. "We came together in teamwork towards the end. We did do as well as we would've liked, but it was still a fun experience overall," Stevens said. Stevens was a leading scorer in many of the games.



Jumping above his opponents to shoot a 3-pointer, Sophomore forward Dolapo Macarthy (24) focuses his aim in a game against Valparaiso. "My advice to upcoming players is to work hard and do your best. Make sure to leave it all on the floor," Macarthy said.



| Opponent | Score | W/L |
|---------------|-------|-----|
| Lebanon | 67-52 | W |
| Highland | 74-30 | W |
| Chesterton | 52-44 | W |
| LaPorte | 58-55 | L |
| Andrean | 70-54 | W |
| Michigan City | 61-53 | W |
| Lake Central | 51-48 | L |
| Crown Point | 68-47 | W |
| Valparaiso | 54-49 | L |
| Portage | 58-51 | W |
| LaPorte | 77-51 | W |
| Lake Central | 51-44 | L |
| Michigan City | 79-80 | W |
| Lowell | 71-46 | W |
| Crown Point | 63-54 | L |
| Munster | 58-49 | W |
| Chesterton | 59-38 | W |
| Valparaiso | 53-42 | W |
| Heobart | 77-14 | W |
| Portage | 80-30 | W |
| Sectional | | |
| Portage | 76-54 | W |
| Valparaiso | 48-43 | W |
| DAC: 9-5 | | |
| OVERALL: 16-6 | | |

BOYS' BASKETBALL



"I did well as far as leading the team. I played my part as a senior in getting the team to come together," Senior forward Jonathan Nwannunu (44) said. While evading Crown Point player Nathaniel Ackers (35), Nwannunu searches for a teammate to pass the ball. He led the team with 91 field goals this season.



Senior Rayon Lewis



Senior Jonathan Nwannunu



Senior Dolapo Macarthy



Junior Darius Stevens



Sophomore Brandon Clark



Sophomore Jeremiah Jones



The boys' varsity basketball team exceeded expectations this year. On February 7, Merrillville accomplished the unexpected when they defeated the state ranked, undefeated Munster Mustangs.

"It was a big win for us. It was a confidence booster and shows that we're a contender," said Sophomore shooting guard Jeremiah Jones.

"It felt good giving them their only loss," Sophomore point guard Brandon Clark added.

During the regular season the

Pirates had a record of 15-5 and a record of 9-5 in the D.A.C.

'It was a big win for us. It was a confidence booster and shows that we're a contender.'
Jeremiah Jones

"Our goal was to win the DAC," Jones said. The Pirates defeated Portage in the first round of sectionals, but lost in their second game against Valparaiso.

During the season, head

coach Jim East was recognized for his 600th win. East's record in 47 years of coaching basketball is 612-321.

"I was happy for him and glad to be a part of history," Clark said.

Although the Pirates have had a

The Merrillville bench watches closely, along with Head Coach Jim East and Assistant Coach T. J. Lix. Senior Center Ryan Smith said his favorite moment during the season was during the Crown Point game when he dunked the ball. Smith tied with Sophomore Jeremiah Jones for the most free throws made, and he holds the seasons record for the most rebounds, with 61 offensive and 84 defensive.



Junior Darius Stevens and Seniors Rayon Lewis and Dolapo MacCarthy

Senior Ryan Smith



Senior Rico Spikes

Sophomore Tokunbo Fashawe and Junior Darius Stevens



standout season, three key players are graduating this year, but have big plans for their futures.

Senior centers Jonathan Nwannunu and Ryan Smith are still deciding on colleges but want to continue to play basketball in college.

"The hardest change is the level of play because it is faster in college," Smith said. Smith plans to play basketball overseas and ultimately coach.

Also graduating this year, Senior small forward Dolapo McCarthy has decided not to play basketball in college, but still wants to play college football.

"I think this has been one of my better basketball seasons," McCarthy said.



Senior Ryan Smith

Most Valuable



Most Improved



influence.
energy.
defy.

Mental Attitude



*exceeding
expectations.*



through trials and triumphs.



Most Valuable

Tierra Turner



Leadership

Melanee Stubbs



Most Improved

Jaslynn Miller

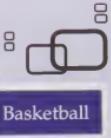


Sportsmanship

Jasmine Wade



Junior Bryonna Davis



Basketball

struggle. chemistry. hardship.

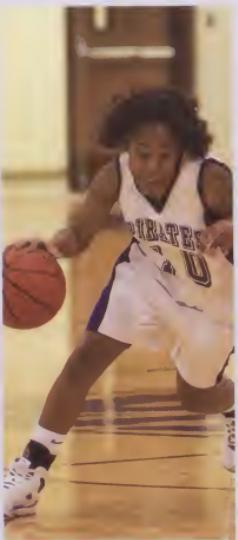


Senior Tierra Turner

Sophomore
Melanee Stubbs

Junior
Bryonna Davis

While driving the ball to the net, Junior point guard Latoi Merrivweather (10) makes the shot contributing to the win over Michigan City with the score of 79-70. Merrivweather believes that the team needs more chemistry with one another on the court. "The chemistry off the court was good, but it could have been better on the court," Merrivweather said.



While Lake Central's Kaley Marciniak (23) and Ashley Doreski (10) follow her, Senior shooting guard and forward Tierra Turner (24) gets a fast break away. Merrillville defeated by Lake Central in triple overtime, 76-72. Since Turner is the only senior on the team, she left some advice for the team of the upcoming season. "Don't ever give up. Play hard and work hard," Turner said.

Compared to previous years, the girls' basketball team had a unique composition, having only one senior on the team.

"It was stressful because one senior can't do everything, so we had to step up and take on some leadership too," Junior point guard Latoi Merrivweather said.

The team started the season off strong; however, with injuries and low fan turn outs, having a positive mindset was difficult at times.

The team lost its focus when Senior shooting guard and forward Tierra Turner tore her ACL, ending her season. Turner was injured January 20, during the Hobart game.

"At first my knee popped once

when I came down from a rebound. I went back to the training room to get it checked out and everything seemed fine, so I went back in the game. Then I went up for a jump shot and when I came down, my

'We had to step up and take on some leadership too.'
Latoi Merrivweather

knee popped twice. After I went to the doctor I found out I had torn my ACL," Turner said.

Getting news of a severe injury is always difficult news for an athlete to cope with.

"I was depressed, sad and mad" Turner said. "I also played a major role, so the team lost focus after that."

The girls started the season off with the goal of winning sections. They came short of their goal, losing to Hobart in the first round of sectionals 59-36.

"Our hard work and dedication paid off in the beginning, but we lost it at the end," Merrivweather said.

Throughout the season, the team stayed very close.

"Coming back next year, we will have the same team, so we will be even closer," Sophomore guard and forward Melanee Stubbs said.



Freshman
Raveen Murray

Junior Latoi Merriweather

Junior Lydia Hawkins

Senior Tierra Turner

Senior Tierra Turner

Junior Latoi Merriweather



Fighting to get past Lake Central's defenders, Sophomore forward Melence Stubbs (21) drives the ball down the court. Stubbs believes that if the girls play hard and give their all every game, next year should be a good season for them. "This season did not quite reach our expectations and I hope next year will be better," Stubbs said.



During the game against the Crown Point Bulldogs, Freshman point guard Raveen Murray (14) goes up to make a shot. "Going into sectionals I felt confident, but I don't know what happened. I guess we weren't quite ready," Murray said.



Shooting the basket, junior forward and center Lydia Hawkins (30) scores against Michigan City. "I feel like it was a throw-away season because we lost so many games and played with no intensity," Hawkins said.



What's in your bag?



1 ankle braces

2 warm up gear

3 P.S.P.

4 extra shirts

5 basketball shoes

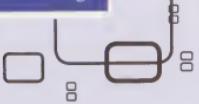
GIRLS' BASKETBALL

| Opponent | Score | W/L |
|---------------|-------|-----|
| Highland | 64-50 | W |
| Andrean | 48-40 | W |
| Valparaiso | 71-61 | L |
| E.C. Central | 56-47 | W |
| Portage | 46-30 | L |
| Chesterton | 60-55 | L |
| LaPorte | 64-39 | W |
| Michigan City | 29-70 | W |
| Lake Central | 76-72 | L |
| Minster | 45-42 | L |
| Crown Point | 58-46 | L |
| Valparaiso | 63-52 | W |
| Portage | 57-47 | W |
| Lowell | 61-20 | W |
| LaPorte | 68-49 | W |
| Hobart | 57-55 | W |
| Lake Central | 76-46 | L |
| Chesterton | 74-66 | L |
| Michigan City | 75-39 | L |
| Crown Point | 54-40 | L |
| Sectional | | |
| Hobart | 59-36 | L |

DAC: 4-9
OVERALL: 10-10



Wrestling



Senior William Costakis



Kean Jones Most Valuable



M

Anthony Napoles Leadership



M

James Travis Most Improved



M

Zachary Stevens Sportsmanship



M

muscle. concentration. power.

After a phenomenal season record last year, the varsity boys' wrestling team had a lot to live up to. The team lost many varsity starters to graduation, but that did not stop their motivation.

"The team acts as one. There is not just one person who stands out above the rest. The entire team works together to encourage each other and support each other," Junior Frankie Valdivia said.

Although the team did not raise their record from last year, they still

sent four of their wrestlers to state: Juniors Zachary Stevens, Anthony Napoles, and James Travis, along with Senior Keon Jones.

'The team acts as one.' Frankie Valdivia

"We all did exceptionally well. I expected to get at least first or

In his first year varsity, Junior Martin Flores stares down his 215 pound opponent. "Wrestling is a lot of fun," Flores said, "but it is sometimes hard trying to control what I eat all the time." Flores said he wants to finish his high school career by wrestling all four years and hopes to advance to the state finals his senior year.

Taking down his opponent, Senior Darrius Richmond goes on to win his 140-pound match. Richmond has been wrestling since the fifth grade and got started when a friend encouraged him to try it out. Richmond finished this season with a record of 30-5.

second, but I ended up with fourth. Zac placed fourth and James 'Jumbo' placed fifth," Jones said.

It was a tough season for the boys trying to maintain weight and qualify in more weight classes than they did in the past.

"Trying to maintain your weight is hard. After season we just pig out. During season, though, we help each other and keep each other on track with what and how much we eat," Senior Robbie Jordan said.



weighing in.

Senior Keon Jones

Junior Martin Flores

Senior William Costakis



In an attempt to gain control of the match, junior Anthony Napoles tries to make an escape. "Before every match, I wrestle, go to warm up and get all the bugs out," Napoles said. Napoles has been wrestling for 11 years and finished the season with a record of 40-5.



With a tight grip on his opponent, Senior Robbie Jordan tries to defeat rival Crown Point. "A fun way for me to make weight is to play Rockband with a lot of clothes on," Jordan said. This was Jordan's second year wrestling.

Attempting a reversal, Senior Keon Jones goes for a quick two points. Jones relied on his speed and agility to earn a 39-6 record and become a state qualifier. "If I can get a scholarship I would definitely love to wrestle in college," Jones said.



wrestling scoring.



near fall: one wrestler exposes the other wrestler's back past a 90° angle towards the mat for a 3 to 5 second count



takedown: from a standing position, one wrestler brings his opponent to the floor

reversal: the wrestler who is on the bottom flips his opponent, and becomes the wrestler on top, gaining control
escape: the wrestler who is on the bottom gets away from his opponent

3
2
2
1

With arms locked, Freshman Kourtney Berry tries to overpower his opponent. "My mom was actually the one who got me started in wrestling," Berry said. Berry plans on wrestling varsity all four years of high school.



Junior Frankie Valdivia

Senior Darrius Richmond

Senior Darrius Richmond

Junior Zachary Stevens

Senior Darrius Richmond



| Opponent | Score | W/L |
|----------------------|-------|-----------|
| LaPorte Duals | 67-9 | 1st Place |
| LaPorte | 84-0 | W |
| Hammond | 67-0 | W |
| Culver | 68-12 | W |
| SB Clay | 53-17 | W |
| Elskhart | 57-24 | W |
| Valparaiso | 30-24 | W |
| Portage | 1 KV | 1st Place |
| Northwood | 62-12 | W |
| Boone Grove | 76-6 | W |
| W. Lafayette | 73-6 | W |
| Lat. Harrison | 51-12 | W |
| Crown Point | 36-9 | L |
| Rich East Tournament | 52-18 | 1st Place |
| Mishawaka Tournament | 62-12 | 4th Place |
| Chesterton | 73-6 | W |
| Gate Way Duals | 58-12 | 2nd Place |
| St. Genevieve | 5-13 | W |
| Hamillab | 66-17 | W |
| Mater Dei | 39-18 | L |
| Warren Central | 69-12 | W |
| Farmington | 42-39 | W |
| DAC | 58-6 | 2nd Place |
| Lake Central | 58-6 | W |
| Michigan City | 63-9 | W |
| Individual Sectional | 63-9 | 1st Place |
| Team Regional Dual | 34-20 | L |

DAC: 6-1
OVERALL: 19-3

WRESTLING



Sophomore Jacob Caddick



Senior Dan Rios



Sophomore Autry Phillips



Sophomore Alexander Matthews



Senior Jacob Pavel



Junior Juan Rivera



Taking a deep breath and pushing himself to the finish, Junior Colin Burke competes in the 100-yard butterfly. Although Burke's signature stroke is the backstroke, he also competed in other individual events. "My strongest event is the 100 backstroke, but I also do the 100 butterfly and some of the relays," Burke said. Burke said he hopes to be a state finalist in the 100-yard backstroke.



BOYS' SWIMMING & DIVING

| Opponent | Score | W/L |
|-----------------|--------|-----|
| Portage | 107-74 | L |
| Rensselaer | 103-79 | L |
| Lake Central | 134-52 | L |
| Highland | 94-91 | L |
| Hobart | 124-48 | W |
| Crown Point | 123-60 | L |
| Griffith | 123-61 | W |
| Lowell | 90-86 | W |
| Valparaiso | 130-46 | L |
| Kankakee Valley | 120-66 | W |
| Michigan City | 95-90 | L |
| LaPorte | 102-84 | L |
| Munster | 138-48 | L |
| Wheeler | 113-69 | W |
| Chesterton | 124-62 | L |
| DAC | 116 | 8th |
| Sectionals | 71 | 6th |

DAC: 0-7
OVERALL: 5-10



tp tradition.

"TPing is a tradition. The guys will get the girls and the girls will get the guys."
-Nicholas Wolak



"We used 24 rolls of toilet paper on Michelle Ross's house. We also had a stop sign, two street signs, a shopping cart, two bags of shredded paper, two recycling bins, a log of trash that we dumped in her front yard, and we Sarah wrapped her front porch so they couldn't get out of their front door."
-Michael Sandridge



Spotting his entry on a reverse dive pike, Senior Dan Rios remains calm on his fall toward the water. There are many aspects of diving that influenced his drive. "I think the reason I love diving so much is the adrenaline when you're up in the air trying so hard not to come down on your stomach or back. It really makes you focus in on what you have to do," Rios said. Rios plans to continue diving, even if he does not compete on a college level.



Opening up to rip an entry, Junior Juan Rivera performs a forward one-and-a-half somersault. Rivera has been a diver for three years and plans on stepping up next year with some friendly competition between his teammates. "My people to beat usually have to be Matthews and Blaylock, because I can't let an underclassman beat me," Rivera said. Rivera finished his third year diving, placing 11th at sectionals. He hopes to continue to improve next year.





Sophomore
Alexander Matthews



Junior Juan Rivera

Senior Nicholas Wolak



With a mind set towards his goal, Senior Jacob Pavel swims freestyle in an attempt to help his team win the meet. "I was really kind of disappointed when I took second at sectionals this year. I felt like I deserved to go to state with how much I worked," Pavel said. With a second-place finish at sectionals, Pavel missed the state competition by less than two seconds.



Attempting to place first, Junior Jonathan Harmon competes in the 50 yard freestyle. "My advice to future swimmers is to keep working hard and never quit," Harmon said. Harmon hopes to drop even more off his times for his senior season.

With the smallest team Merrillsville High School has seen in a while, the boys' swimming and diving team struggled to be competitive.

"We lost several meets due to numbers," Senior swimmer Jacob Pavel said.

"Most teams had two or three times as many guys as we did," Senior swimmer Nicholas Wolak said.

The teams' small numbers often made it hard to make a winning lineup.

"We didn't have a lot of people

to fill up events," Sophomore diver Darren Blaylock said.

Blaylock often had to swim in relays because the team lacked one or two people to make up a second relay.

'Swimming and diving take real dedication.'
Jacob Pavel

Lacking participants put the team at a disadvantage, but it also brought the team closer.

dedication to swimming and diving.

ambition. perseverance. devotion.

Most Valuable



Jacoby Pavel

Leadership



Jonathon Harmon

Most Improved



Alexander Blaylock

Mental Attitude



Darren Blaylock

Swimming & Diving



Sophomore Alexander Matthews



"The team's size made us a family," Wolak said.

"Not many people give swimming the credit it deserves. It takes mental and physical stamina to succeed. A lot think practices are all just easy swimming, but swimming and diving take real dedication. During season, you have no life outside of practice and sleeping. The team is your friends and family. You eat breakfast together after morning practice, go to school together, practice again, go home and come back to do it all again," Pavel said.





which stroke is that?

Can you guess which stroke
each of these swimmers are doing?



- A. Back stroke
- B. Breast stroke
- C. Freestyle
- D. Butterfly

DAC: 1-6
OVERALL: 3-12

GIRLS' SWIMMING & DIVING



Senior Captain Kirsten Koharchik's favorite event is the 100 fly. "When I swim such a tough event I just keep telling myself to just keep swimming," Koharchik said. She wore her lucky pair of goggles every meet to pump herself up and planned to go her best time in the 100 fly before the season ended. Koharchik has been swimming for nine years, with four on the varsity team.



Senior Kelsey Barrick

*Sophomore
Jordann Matthys*

Senior Monica Dorligh

*Sophomore
Kaitlyn Phillips*

Junior Kathleen Baran



Attempting a reverse flip, Sophomore Kaitlyn Phillips said she focuses on perfection. "To be a diver, you have to have really strong legs and arms, a high tolerance for pain and really want it," Phillips said. "I quit soccer, so I needed something to keep me involved. I used to do tumbling, and I thought that it would help in diving," Phillips added.



With eight previous years of experience swimming in Italy, foreign exchange student Senior Monica Dorligh spent her ninth year swimming in the United States. Dorligh's favorite event is the 100 breaststroke. "At I think about during a race is beating the person next to me. And when I win my event, I am happy, mostly because it proves gave all of my effort," Dorligh said.



Losing seven seniors and having their feeder program (Merrillville Aquatic Club or MAC) cancelled, the girls' swimming and diving team was faced with the challenge of an unusually small team.

"Our team's size was our biggest challenge this year," Junior Kathleen Baran said. "We lost a lot of meets that we won last year because our team was so small."

In regard to the team's size, Captain Kirsten Koharchik said, "If it [the team] had been bigger, we could have done better I think."

But the girls were up to the

challenge.

"We all had to step up and swim more events than in the past," Senior captain Michelle Ross said.

Having a new set of assistant coaches and a newly-promoted

'We all had to step up and swim more events than in the past.'
Michelle Ross

head coach helped the girls remain confident.

"Coach D was a lot more positive and overall brought a

Sophomore Kelsey Sajdera has spent seven years swimming and two years on the high school varsity team. Sajdera plans on participating in swimming for the remainder of her high school career. Sajdera's favorite event is the 100 breast stroke, which is also her signature stroke. She said she tries to bring confidence and determination to every practice. "When I swim I just ignore the pain and keep swimming," Sajdera said.

Senior Kayla Meloy has been swimming for 12 years. Meloy's favorite thing about swimming is winning an event and seeing her best time. "I met my goal this year in sectionals by going a 5:50 in my 500 yard freestyle," Meloy said. Meloy's favorite meet was her freshman year when the team defeated Munster High School, who was a top-ranked team.



Senior captain Michelle Ross has been swimming for four years. Ross swam the 100 freestyle and the 50 backstroke for the 200 medley relay. "Meets are always memorable when it's a close meet. The team comes together behind every lane and on the sidelines to cheer on individuals and relays. It usually gets pretty intense," Ross said. After high school Ross plans to play recreational water polo in college.

Sophomore
Eleny Babilonia

Sophomore
Jordann Matthys

Senior Monica Dorligh

better attitude for the team," Sophomore Morgan Orosz said.

Part of the team's problem was its lack of publicity.

"Diving doesn't get a lot of recognition, so no one really knows it's out there," Sophomore Kaitlyn Phillips said.

"Not everyone knows there is a swim team," Koharchik said.

All in all, the girls were proud of their season.

"Although we didn't achieve our goal of sending two relays to state, we all swam personal best times at sectionals and that was more rewarding," Ross concluded.



Sophomore Jordann Matthys

**Monica Dorligh
Most Valuable**



**Alyssa Babb
Leadership**

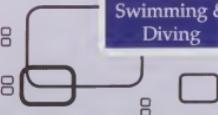


**Michelle Ross
Most Improved**



**Kaitlyn Phillips
Mental Attitude**

**Swimming &
Diving**



*stepping up,
swimming more.*



overcoming injury.



Most Valuable

Ariean Taylor

Senior Tiffany Leicht

Junior Lisa Pozniak

Freshman
Sasha Melenko



Leadership

Ariean Taylor



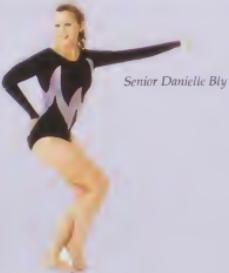
Most Improved

Hannah Hill



Mental Attitude

Hannah Hill



Senior Danielle Bly



Agility. Flexibility. Stamina.
Heart.

Every girl on Coach Diane Roberts' team knows she expects her gymnasts to possess these qualities. This season, they needed more.

Obstacles in the form of injury plagued this team, but they worked together and eventually sent one of their girls, Junior Diana Milenkovski, to state.

The team battled many mishaps, beginning with the first meet over Winter Break.

Senior captain Taryn Woods suffered an ankle injury and could not compete until sectionals.

pride. determination. persistence.



To end her routine, Sophomore Chandler Hill does the Merrillville Crawl, an exercise that every MHS gymnast does somewhere in her routine. "Gymnastics is generally hard, but spite of the team's injuries, we were still good," Hill said. Coach Diane Roberts said that when doing the Merrillville Crawl, gymnasts "pull themselves up, crawl and finish in a dramatic downward position."

Seniors Danielle Bly and Tiffany Leicht and Junior Lisa Pozniak also suffered injuries which kept them from competing.

Bly sustained a spiral fracture in her leg. Leicht bruised, sprained

all-around. Lisa Pozniak was full strength and Tiffany Leicht was able to do beam at our regional meet," Senior Arien Taylor said.

Team members said the hardships they faced this year made them closer and helped the work as one to end the season on place away from competing at the state level.

"In gymnastics we combine flexibility, power, stamina, grace, flexibility and so many other elements to become the best, but the biggest thing that advances our team is the relationships we share between one another," Sophomore Valerie Bly said.

and tore cartilage in her knee and Pozniak had sprains in both ankles.

"A huge difference would have been made if Danielle Bly was in

'The biggest thing that advances our team is the relationships we share between one another.'
Valerie Bly





Sophomore
Heather Brown

Senior Taryn Woods

Sophomore
Valerie Bly

Junior Diana Milenkovski

Junior Lisa Pozniak

Junior Theresa Yugo



"Arien is known for her dramatic beauty and classical style," Gymnastics Coach Diane Roberts said of Senior Arien Taylor. The most valuable gymnast of the season, Taylor began her floor exercise lying on her back. Her regional score was 9.5, and she missed advancing to the state finals by .005.



Despite her ankle injury over Winter Break, Senior Taryn Woods does a sideward movement, which is required on a balance beam. "Doing gymnastics for so long makes me want to continue. The challenge keeps me going," Woods said.

Balancing, Junior Diana Milenkovski drapes her body around the beam as she shows off her signature skill. A gymnast for seven years, Milenkovski said, "I keep everything in perspective and stay focused." Milenkovski was the only gymnast to advance to the state competition.



Gymnastics Coach Diane Roberts calls the beginning of Junior Lisa Pozniak's floor routine "dramatic." Like other gymnasts, Pozniak practices year-round to improve her routines. "It's different from other sports. It's an overall challenge," Pozniak said.



As she begins her floor exercise, Senior Tiffany Leicht moves into a pose that Coach Diane Roberts says "shows flexibility and grace." Leicht, who has been competing in gymnastics for 13 years, said her team worked hard to overcome obstacles together.

STICK IT

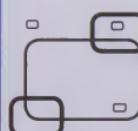
/'stik . it / 1:Slang for a gymnast executing a perfect landing



Sophomore Rebekah Rochefort

| GYMNASTICS | | |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------|-----|
| Opponent | Score | W/L |
| Michigan City | 103.175-91.85 | W |
| Lovell | 100.55-81.25 | W |
| Hobart | 100.55-83.95 | W |
| Lake Central | 104.20-93.25 | W |
| Concordia Classic | | 5th |
| Lafayette | 106.70-104.65 | L |
| Phoebe Pratt Invitational | | 1st |
| Portage | 109.425-101.35 | W |
| Chesterton | 109.525-105.95 | L |
| Crown Point | 105.975-105.55 | W |
| Valparaiso | 113.975-107.175 | L |
| Duneland Athletic Conference Sectional | | 4th |
| Regional | | 3rd |
| | | 3rd |

DAC: 4-3
OVERALL: 6-3



"We always look for students with good character. It is more important to have well-mannered and well-behaved cheerleaders representing our school than students who may give the community the wrong impression of our school corporation or cheerleading program. Of course, talent and pride in your school are important as well," Cheerleading Coach Lori Govert said.

The cheerleaders now have a male cheerleader on the team who the coach hopes will add to the talent of the squad. Junior

Alexander Gacsy is the "new guy" of the squad. "I wanted to join the cheerleading squad because I wanted to do something that gave me a reason to commit to school," Gacsy said.

Senior Katherine Sadural also enjoys being on the cheerleading team because it allows her to be with her friends. Even though she finds cheering for two consecutive seasons to be difficult, she pushes through it for the love of cheerleading. "My friends are on the team and the passion that I have for cheerleading just keeps

me coming back for more," Sadural said. Football is her favorite season, she said, "because the crowd is more pumped up and more involved during a game, and in my opinion, football is a more intense sport to cheer for."

The cheerleaders do many things in order to prepare themselves for both the football and basketball seasons. They have morning practices during the summer, and they also go to National Cheerleading Association (NCA) Camp. "We learn everything we need to know for both the basketball and football season and NCA Camp," Sadural said.

During basketball season, Mrs. Govert said she was pleased with routines. "I felt our dances and stunts were creative, challenging and innovative. Each year, the team

seems to raise the bar. We receive a number of compliments on how well we cheer and dance," Mrs. Govert said.

Mrs. Govert, who has been coaching since 1989, said she was also surprised with the cheerleading tryouts. "I was pleasantly pleased with the incoming freshmen that tried out. They show a lot of potential and will be a great asset to the team," Mrs. Govert said. "I was also pleased with how well the veteran cheerleaders helped the new students trying out. It shows wonderful character to put your needs aside and help out someone who is less experienced. I wouldn't expect anything less of them."

"Every year, each team brings something new to the table," she said, "and together, we create some terrific memories."

While the football game continues behind her, Junior Lisa Poziak entertains the fans. Poziak has cheered with Merrillville High School for three years and is one of the girls who will be affected by the graduating seniors. "They can leave behind their memories, but they can keep their drama. They were all strong parts of the team," Poziak said.

After scoring a touchdown, the cheerleaders jump with joy to hype up the crowd and the team for a home game. "The seasons have been really fun, and now that I'm leaving, I hope to leave behind a team that is confident in themselves," Senior Kendall Bonick said.



Katherine Sadural
Most Valuable



Kendall Bonick
Leadership



Daria Arth
Most Improved



Malissa Kutzmark
Sportsmanship



Courtney Czaplinski
Pride Enthusiasm
Patience Award

daring. honor. enthusiasm.



accomplishing
the impossible.



Senior Kendall Bonick

Senior Katherine Sadural

Junior Daria Arth

During a basketball game, Sophomore Erin Bielak cheers along with the crowd. "We work hard, we sweat and we go to 5:45 a.m. summer practices. Cheering is tough," Bielak said.



With much teamwork, the cheerleaders perform a group stunt. Senior Katherine Sadurals flips through the air with help from Junior Catherine Gamino and Sophomore Katelynn Usher.



Low-High: The top flyer starts on the same level as her side flyers. Her bases then bring her down to the level of their hips before they toss her straight up into the air. The top flyer uses her side flyers to do a side hurdler kick in the air.

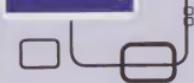


Paste
Cove

As she stunts with her squad, Sophomore Katelynn Usher smiles and sticks the stunt. "It's a lot better to cheer when we're winning because everyone will actually listen and watch us," Usher said



Cheerleading



Varsity Cheerleaders

Coach Lori Govett

Front row: Kendall Bonick, Katherine Sadurals, Kandace Greene; Second row: Erin Bielak, Katelynn Usher, Dayna Young, Melissa Kwiatkoski, Raevyn Harper; Back row: Catherine Gamino, Jasmine Harris, Daniella Gregoline, Diva Lowe, Lisa Pozniak, Dana Arthur.



Senior
Kandace Greene Sophomore Katelynn Usher Junior Catherine Gamino

Sophomores Raevyn Harper and Erin Bielak

Junior
Melissa Kwiatkoski Junior Jasmine Harris





Senior Markella Papamihalakis



Junior Jaylah Robinson



Senior Jasmine Woods

Junior Naudia Bradley

Seniors Tia Bates, JacQuese Waters
and Brianna Clark

Senior
Lorielle Johnson



While performing with the children from the Junior Dance Clinic, Junior Briania Lee demonstrates a good performance. The dance clinic was just one of the many fundraisers that the dancers participated in. "We do a lot as dancers, and it's all hard work," Lee said.

uniform expression

The Pirate uniform is used for regular performances and makes the routine look clean and put together.

The MHS uniform is used as an alternative to the Pirate outfit and shows the spirit of the team.

The Jazz uniform is used for performances that indicate a flowing or graceful dance.

During a routine, the dance team gets in a group formation. "People would be surprised to know that dance takes a lot of technique," Junior Naudia Bradley said.



As the pregame music plays, Senior Markella Papamihalakis dances with the team. "I like dancing for basketball because everyone gets to see what we really do," Papamihalakis said. Papamihalakis is one of the nine seniors on the team this year. "I want the girls next year to work really hard like we did this year," Papamihalakis said.



As the team performs, Junior Gabrielle Roberts stays in sync with her teammates. "My favorite dance style is jazz," Roberts said. This year has been the first time that the dance team has performed a jazz routine. "All of our routines take a lot of work, and it takes a lot of years to perfect the technique you need to dance," Roberts said.





Junior
Gabrielle Roberts

Senior Jasmine Jones

Junior Naudia Bradley, Seniors
Rhonda McGuire and Stephanie Hart

live, love, dance.



Dance

Most Valuable
Cheerleader Hart



M

Leadership
Rhonda McGuire



M

Most Dedicated
Naudia Bradley



M

Coach's 110%
Margie L. Papamihalakis



M



Varsity Dance Team

Coach Melissa Volkman

Front row: Lorelle Johnson, Jasmine Jones, Markella Papamihalakis, Stephanie Hart, Rhonda McGuire, Jasmine Woods; Back row: Jaylah Robinson, Naudia Bradley, Gabrielle Roberts, Tia Bates, Brianna Lee, Brianna Clark, Chelsea Campbell, Mariah Dennis.

Building a legacy with each performance, the dance team is saying goodbye to nine of their 14 members.

"We've been dancing together for five years now, and I'm really going to miss all my teammates," Senior Markella Papamihalakis said.

For the first time, the team competed within three different styles of dance, including elite pom, elite hip-hop and jazz.

"If I could describe this year's season, I would say it never had a dull moment," Senior Stephanie Hart said.

The girls said they were challenged during the season when they had to make constant changes to their three routines.

"This year's season had a lot of ups and downs, but we never gave up. Our strong bond kept the team striving to be the best," Sophomore Chelsea Campbell said.

The team practiced three to four times a week, performed at home basketball games, and competed on Saturdays.

"Dance is very time-consuming, but we continue to do it because it's our passion," Senior Rhonda McGuire said.

The team will be left with four veterans.



Before the football game begins, Senior Stephanie Hart performs to the school song. "A lot of people say that dancing isn't a sport and I'm okay with that because dance is so much more than that," Hart said.



After much practice, Senior Rhonda McGuire executes a jump. This particular jump is called a C jump because the placement of the body looks like a C.



59



Boys' Varsity Basketball

Coach Jim East

Front row: Blake Bonin, Michael Fayson, Chris Robinson, Kevin Mask, DeVaughn Cox, Bryce Bonin; Second row: Brandon Clark, Jeremiah Jones, Denius Stevens, Rico Spikes, Rayon Lewis; Back row: Coach Jim East, Coach David Herring, Jason Simpson, Dolapo Macarthy, Johnathan Nwannunu, Ryan Smith, Tokunbo Fashawe, Coach T.J. Lux, Rev. Timothy Prouse.



Boys' JV Basketball

Coach David Herring

Front row: Brandon Smith, La'Quon Clark, Andre' Ross, Anton Redmon, Carl Campbell; Back row: Zachary Raspopovich, Vincent Dorsey, Coach David Herring, Edward Seay, Joshua Hogan.



Boys' Freshman Basketball

Coach Luke Starkey

Front row: Tyler Core, Tyran Crawford, KeMonte' Price, Verchon DeBrossard, Jamai Allen; Second row: Derryck Jackson, Frank Jefferson, Darnall Brown, Michael Dicken, Kyran Woods, William Isabel, Samuel Reed; Back row: Anthony Disco, Aarius Reed, John Mosley, Coach Luke Starkey, Jared Knox, Anthony Reed, Tyler Kopchar.



Girls' Varsity Basketball

Coach Amy Govert

Front row: Latoi Merriweather, Jasmine Wade, Bryonna Davis, Jasmyne Miller, Ravenne Murray, Yakee Lomax; Back row: Coach Stephanie Nelson, Jade Dixon, Melanee Stubbs, Tracee Mitchell, Lydia Hawkins, Tierra Turner, Coach Amy Govert.



Girls' JV Basketball

Coach Darcie Johnston

Front row: Brianna Thompson, Mercedes McLendon, Motoluwaso Ibilukune-Salami, Robin Williamson, Demetria Downing, Janay Bray; Back row: Amanda Banashak, Latoya Reaves-Weaver, Coach Darcie Johnston, Kacey Cole, Nevena Djurdjevic.



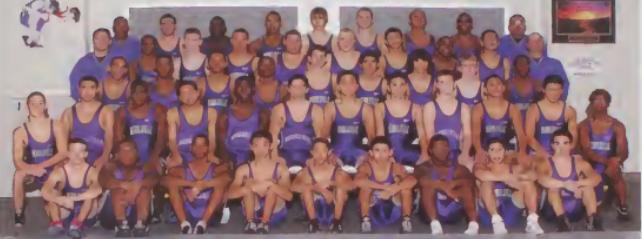
Girls' Freshman Basketball

Coach Kim Jackson

Front row: Jennay Barden, Victoria Henderson, Samantha Mahone, Lauren Blachwell, Indyan Cooke, Danielle Abel; Back row: Amanda Banashak, Mia Patikas, Coach Kim Jackson, Kacey Cole, Rasheeda Robinson.



WRESTLING



Wrestling

Coach David Maldonado

Front row: Zachary Stevens, Anthony Pitts, Payton Parker, Luis Padilla, Michael Ward, Gabriel Montemayor, Derek Taylor, Frankie Valdivia, Robert Sosa; Second row: William Costakis, Edgar Guadarrama, Milton Davis, Jalen Foster, Rahim Conwell, Eduardo DeLuna, Walter Barcenas, Peter Berlanga, Nicholas Badali, Anthony Napoles, Javier Avalos, David Cross; Third row: Darius Richmond, Daryl Peppers, Travis Norman, Joseph Lee, Benjamin Kepchar, Xavier Ponce, Antonio Garcia, Tyler Houser, Keion Jones; Fourth row: Coach Rob Pelyko, Zachary Sandifer, Kourtney Berry, Perry Ward, Eldyn Goode, Jacob Jarra, Robbie Jordan, Najeb Ariffe, Coach Gene Bierman; Back row: Coach Mike Lawrence, Marin Flores, James Travis, Fabian Hoffman, Jeremy Wengel, Juaquin Muro, Joshua Washington, Head Coach David Maldonado.



Gymnastics

Head Coach: Diane Roberts

Front row: Chandler Hill, Diana Milenkovski, Theresa Yugo, Lisa Pozniak, Heather Brown, Rebekah Rochefort; Back row: Sasha Morales, Tiffany Leicht, Danielle Bly, Arien Ward, Taryn Woods, Valerie Bly, Coach Diane Roberts, Coach Nick Roberts.



JV Dance Team

Coach Melissa Volkman

Front row: Ericka Brown, Jenee Porter, Angelica Dix; Second row: Jessica Lowery, Jasmine Suggs, Victoria Smith, Unique Jeter, Jennyme Adams, Brittanie Sturdvant, Brittni Jackson, Dianna DeLeon, Alexandria Norton.



Girls' Swimming and Diving

Coach Ladd Downham

Front row: Katherine Barran, Jucilia Best, Kelsey Barrick, Jordann Matthys, Eleny Bablafonia, Croena Woodson; Second row: Manager Brandi Wolak, Manager Megan McGill, Michelle Ross, Kaitlyn Phillips, Angela Reynolds, Morgan Gunn, Coach Molly Crown; Third row: Coach Ladd Downham, Mallory Lancaster, Keyla Meloy, Kaitlyn Sterkowitz, Morgan Orosz, Kelsey Washburn, Coach Sara Stallings; Back row: Kristen Koharchik, Monica Dorligh, Brittney Bass, Jill Ross, Kelsey Sajdora, Alyssa James.



Boys' Swimming and Diving

Head Coach: Ladd Downham

Front row: Darren Blaylock, Markeil Baldwin, Jonathan Harmon, Autry Phillips, Holland Earl; Second row: David Jordan, Alexander Matthews, Mike Sandridge, Jacob Pavel, Jacob Caddick; Third row: Coach Ladd Downham, Colin Burke, Juan Rivera, Robert Dominick-Warren, Christian Williams, Anthony Corraze, Coach Sarah Stallings, Coach Molly Crown; Back row: Brandi Wolak, Dan Rios, Carlos Ortega, Nicholas Wolak, Jonathan Cowley, Megan McGill.

sports.





field events.

Discus –
Event in which a competitor throws a heavy disc, or discuss, with the goal of throwing it a farther distance than his opponent.



High Jump – Event in which an athlete attempts to jump, without the aid of any devices, over a horizontal bar without touching it with any body part.



Pole Vault –
Event in which a competitor uses a long flexible pole as an aid to leap over a horizontal bar.

| Opponent | Score | W/L |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----|
| DAC Indoor Invitational | 2nd | |
| Crown Point | 80-52 | W |
| Valparaiso | 88-44 | L |
| LaPorte | 88-42 | W |
| West Lafayette Relays | 1st of 11 | |
| Chesterton | 72-66 | W |
| Delphi Invitational | 1st of 7 | |
| Lake Central | 102-30 | W |
| Michigan City | 98-34 | W |
| DAC Meet Sectional | 2nd of 8 | |
| Regional | 1st of 13 | |
| | 2nd of 36 | |

DAC
OVERALLS: 20-3

BOYS' TRACK

During a meet, Senior Romeo Harper sprints down the track in the 100 meter dash. "This year was a good season and I am performing way better than I did last year," Harper said. Harper won the DAC indoor 55 meter dash and 200 meter dash for 2 consecutive years. "Even though balancing school work and track gets tough at times I still give it my all because I want to continue to get better," Harper said.



Competing at a meet with Chesterton and Portage, Senior Brian West prepares to throw the discus. West has been in track for three years and does not plan on letting this year be his last year. West competed at the state meet finishing in 20th place with a distance of 139-6 in the discus and 9th place with a distance of 54-11 in shotput. "I do track for the love of the sport, and I plan on competing next year at Indiana State University," West said.



MERRILLVILLE

"I was happy with this season, but I feel like we could have done better. Overall, I believe we pulled off the season with a good ending," Junior Jayden Bentley said. Bentley has high hopes for his senior year. "I hope my last year will be my best year. My ultimate goal for next year is to go to state in all my events," Bentley said.



Senior Daniel McGee

Senior Melvin Davis

Junior Landau Lang

Junior Byron Ferrell

Senior Keith Pavlish



Coming off an undefeated season in 2008, the boys' Track Team had to work hard to keep their reputation alive. Although the team lost key runners, they gained several new runners that stepped up to take their places.

"We had a new kid this year, Dylan Harrison, and he got third at DAC in the mile which was always a weak event for us," Senior Ron Crosby-Green said.

"The team has had trouble staying consistent with times and wins," Crosby-Green added.

Another key athlete has been Senior high jumper Ashton Cole.

"Ashton Cole has made a big increase from last year," Coach Jim Johnston said.

The high jump is Senior Ashton Cole's favorite event of the track season. Cole's goal was to beat the school's record held by 2001 alumnus and girls' head soccer coach Ben Daniel. "This season was a really good season for me. I'm jumping 6'8" and by the end of the season I plan to jump at least 6'9" so that I can achieve my goal of breaking the school's record," he said. Cole competed at the state meet with a distance of 6'4" placing him in 16th place in the long jump.

"He has taken his success to a new level and is hoping to take a stab at the school record of 6'9", Coach Johnston added.

Going into the post season,

'Everyone works hard and performs well, and several have shown leadership.'

Coach Brian Past

hopes were high for a repeat sectional win and an attempt at another regional title.

"Our goal this year is to win sectionals and regionals and to place as many athletes as we can at

the state meet," Coach Brian Past said.

As for leaders, there are many that step up and play a big role in challenging each other.

"Everyone has led. We haven't had one that sticks out. Everyone works hard and performs well and several have shown individual leadership," Coach Past said.

Overall the season ended a little too soon for Coach Johnston, but he was very proud of the athletes.

"It hurt to lose regionals by 4 points, but advancing 14 guys down to state made me feel great, even though we lost the regional title," Coach Johnston said.



Senior Ron Crosby-Green



cost. sleep. run.

**Henry West
Most Valuable**



**Henry West
Leadership**



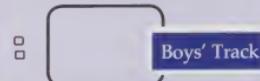
**Ashton Cole
Most Improved**



**Ashton Cole
Sportsmanship**



"This season, I believe, has gone pretty good. The best part is that we have young guys stepping up this year. That's always a plus," Senior Keon Jones said. Jones believes that even though the team did not win the DAC, the season ended on a good note.



Sophomore
Jory Cunningham Junior Kelly Wiggins

Junior
Steven Gusek Senior Milton Davis

on your mark.



going the distance.

**M**

Most Valuable
Rebecca Neville

**M**

Leadership
Rebecca Neville

**M**

Most Improved
Nakel McAllister

**M**

Sportsmanship
Danielle Edwards



Freshman Alexandra Domoras



Even though the girls fell short in the DAC, they came back strong and beat rival Crown Point to win the sectional title.

"The win really turned the season around. We are in a tough conference with great schools. We didn't do too well in the conference and the girls started doubting themselves," Coach Jeff Eaton said. "Winning sectionals really turned things around."

The team came in 4th at the regional and advanced seven athletes in the shot put, long jump, hurdles and 400 relay.

distance. inspiration. challenge.



Senior Keenisha Ferguson
Senior Tiera M. Simpson



Freshman Jazmyin
Thomas



Senior Arien Taylor



In the state finals at Bloomington, Indiana, in early June, Senior Rebecca Neville jumped a personal best 19' 1 3/4" in the long jump event and won a state championship. In the 100 hurdles, she came in fourth. "I've been running since I was five years old," Neville said. "I get motivated by just wanting to achieve my personal best each time. I would advise people to join track because you achieve good physical shape and make relationships that can last forever," Neville added. Neville is going to attend the University of Kansas this fall on a full track scholarship.



Determined to get a good time, Senior Arien Taylor takes hold of the baton in the 400 meter relay. "If I had to choose, I would say that my favorite coach is Mr. Eaton because even though he may seem mean at times, he pushes us to do our very best at all times," Taylor said. Taylor plans to continue running track in college at Xavier University this year.

meets," Simpson said.

Although the team will lose graduating seniors, there are still high hopes for next year's team.

"I hope that they will continue to work hard and be leaders to those that will come behind them," Senior Rebecca Neville said.

"I hope they take the lessons they learned to overcome the hardships and carry it on with them post high school. There is always a light at the end of the tunnel. You just have to work hard to reach it," Coach Eaton said of the graduating runners.

'There is always a light at the end of the tunnel. You just have to work hard to reach it.'
Coach Jeff Eaton

"We all just pray and encourage each other to help get through the





Senior Kate Tarr

Sophomore Robin Williamson

Freshman Megan Dicken

Sophomore Eva Foley

Sophomore
Taische Abrams

Senior Rebecca Neville



Receiving the baton from teammate Senior Tiera M. Simpson, Senior Keenisha Ferguson begins her turn in the 400 meter relay. Ferguson, Simpson, Freshman Shermita Winston, Senior Rebecca Neville and Freshman Jazmyn Thomas were state qualifiers. "Pirate track is all about the team work and being a part of the team has really taught me leadership skills," Ferguson said.



"The best part about being on the track team is meeting all new people and hanging out with them everyday for four months," Freshman Nakel McLinton said. During a competition, McLinton tries to stay focused while throwing the shotput. "I just try to stay focused and remember everything the coach told me," McLinton said. McLinton advanced to state where she placed 17th.



A four-year letter winner, Senior Melissa Warren runs the 800 meter. She was the regional qualifier on the 4 by 800 and 4 by 400 relay teams. Warren will attend college on a volleyball scholarship.



As she dashes to the finish line, Senior Yesenia Vasquez hopes for a good finish. "My motivation for each race is just to envision myself winning, even though I haven't won yet, it motivates me to try harder," Vasquez said. "The best feeling is having all of the support from your teammates," Vasquez added.

staying on track. Sprints – Short running races that do not exceed 400 meters.

Middle distance – Races that are longer than sprints, including events between 800 and 3000 meters.

Long distance – Long races of endurance that include the 5000 and 10000 meter runs.

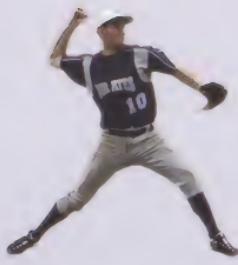
Hurdles – Races that introduce hurdles that are jumped while running for distances of 100 to 400 meters

Relay – Four members of a team combine their abilities to compete for the fastest time.

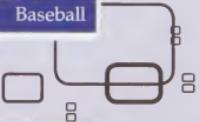
| GIRLS' TRACK | | |
|---------------------|-----------|-----|
| Opponent | Score | W/L |
| Hoosier State Games | | 7th |
| Valparaiso | 89-43 | L |
| Crown Point | 83-49 | L |
| LaPorte | 81-61 | L |
| West Lafayette | 70-5-52.5 | 8th |
| Chesterton | 70.5-52.5 | L |
| Portage | 100-66 | T |
| Debt Invite | | 1st |
| Lake Central | 83-49 | L |
| Michigan City | 85-47 | W |
| DAC Meet | | 3rd |
| Sectional | | 1st |
| Regional | | 4th |

DAC: 1st-5-I (4th place)
OVERALL: 63-17-4





Junior Kevin Schroeder



*Senior Xavier Ponce
Most Valuable*



*Timothy Lanza
Leadership*



*Walter Schaefer
Most Improved*



*Brad Davis
Sportsmanship*

*working for
a change*



"I just love the game, the smell of the field, the sky, playing hard, seeing the scouts in the stands, beating the big teams and holding our heads up when we lose," Senior designated hitter Eric Davis said.

Davis is a four-year player for the high school team who plans to use the skills he learned at MHS to go on to the collegiate level.

"We have a winning attitude, even though our record shows different. The team's bond and our work ethic shows us and other teams that no matter what the

outcome of the game, we will still work our hardest," Junior Nicolas Townes said.

**'I just love the game,
the smell of the field,
the sky.'**
Eric Davis

Throughout the season, the team became better, faster and stronger on both defensive and offensive plays.

"I truly think that Michael

McNeil is a strong leader on this team. His work ethic shows dedication and ambition," Junior Kyle Strom said.

As the season continued, the players and coaches formed bonds that will last a lifetime.

"Coach (Brad) Schulte is always laid back and down to earth. He relates to us a little more than the rest of the coaches, and I know he along with the other coaches, has made a huge difference in my life and the lives of my teammates," Davis said.

Junior Xavier Ponce (3), one of Merrillville's shortstops, jumps to catch the ball. "Our season had its ups and downs," Ponce said. Ponce has been playing baseball for 13 years and plans to return next year as a senior. "Hopefully next year we'll do better and maybe have a winning record," Ponce said.



After Junior Michael McNeil (8) hits a home run, members of the baseball team meet him at home plate to celebrate. "Mike homered sailed right out in like five seconds. Mike touched home before the ball even left the field," Junior Kevin Schroeder (10) said. McNeil was not the only one satisfied with his hitting. "I've hit a few stand up triples. They were all pretty cool," Schroeder said.



*Sophomore Christopher Knight and
Senior Donald Cox*

Senior Ryan Stokes

Senior Joel Van Winkle



With hopes of striking out the batter, junior Zachary Forsell (6) winds up on the mound. "I like when I pitch because I've been doing it for years. I really think it's my strongest point," Forsell said. The baseball team lost to Munster 6-3.



After getting a hit off the Munster pitcher, junior Michael McNeil (8) dashes towards first base as he drops the bat. "I hurt my elbow at that game, but I still managed to finish the game," McNeil said. McNeil has been playing baseball for 11 years. "Our team makes too many errors, but we're a work in progress," McNeil said.



grips and pitches.



*four seam fast ball
straight fast ball*



tails away as it approaches batter



slow, drops as it approaches batter

| Opponent | Score | W/L |
|---------------|-------|-----|
| Hobart | 6-3 | L |
| Boone Grove | 5-3 | L |
| Hammond | 11-3 | W |
| Munster | 6-3 | L |
| Griffith | 12-2 | L |
| Highland | 5-3 | L |
| Lowell | 5-1 | W |
| Lake Central | 13-2 | L |
| Portage | 15-10 | L |
| Valparaiso | 9-3 | L |
| Chesterton | 9-3 | L |
| LaPorte | 11-4 | L |
| Morton (DH) | 12-2 | L |
| | 11-2 | L |
| Michigan City | 5-4 | W |
| Crown Point | 7-0 | L |
| Lake Central | 9-0 | L |
| Portage | 9-7 | L |
| Valparaiso | 10-7 | L |
| Chesterton | 7-4 | L |
| LaPorte | 9-2 | L |
| Bishop Noll | 10-2 | L |
| Michigan City | 10-2 | L |
| Crown Point | 13-3 | L |
| Andreau | 8-3 | L |
| Sectional | 15-5 | L |

DAC: 1-13
OVERALL: 3-23

BASEBALL

As he covers first base, Sophomore Nicholas Feliciano (18) attempts to pick off Munster's Kurt Leneny (23) for an out. This year was not Feliciano's first experience at the varsity level. Feliciano was asked to play with the varsity team his freshman year during sectionals. "Everything about playing for the high school has taught me to be mentally tough," Feliciano said.



Senior Donald Cox

Sophomore Kenneth Wright

Senior Eric Davis

Sophomore Darren Blaylock

Junior Colin Schaefer

Junior Timothy Leicht





Senior Jennifer Tucker

Senior Kelsey Barrick

Junior Allison Kish

Junior Allison Kish

Junior Pauline Laorden
Senior Ashley CherryJunior Julie
Hayes

Senior Ashley Cherry is up at the net preparing for a volley while her doubles partner Junior Pauline Laorden hits a backhand groundstroke. Cherry has been playing tennis for 13 years and said that she will continue to play tennis after high school because she received a \$5,000 tennis scholarship to Calumet College of Saint Joseph.

**GIRLS' TENNIS**

| Opponent | Score | W/L |
|----------------|-------|-----|
| Highland | 4-1 | L |
| Loudell | 3-2 | W |
| Hobart | 3-2 | W |
| Bake Central | 4-1 | L |
| West Lafayette | 3-2 | W |
| Crown Point | 3-2 | L |
| Michigan City | 4-1 | L |
| LaPorte | 3-2 | W |
| Wheeler | 4-1 | W |
| Valparaiso | 4-1 | L |
| Portage | 3-2 | L |
| Chesterton | 4-1 | L |
| Morton | 3-2 | W |
| Sectional | | |
| Lew Wallace | 5-0 | |
| Hobart | 3-2 | L |

DAC: 0-7
OVERALL: 6-9

Q & A**Jennifer Tucker**

Q: Who is your favorite professional tennis player?

A: Serena Williams

Q: What does it take to become a tennis player?

A: You have to have integrity, determination and perseverance to be a good player.

Q: How long have you been playing?

A: Six years

Q: When and where did you improve the most?

A: I improved the most here, at Merrillville, about junior year.

Q: How old were you when you received your first tennis racket?

A: 12 years old



Number one singles player Senior Kelsey Barrick scrambles to score a point. Barrick said that her greatest accomplishment while playing tennis was in the 2008 season. Barrick and her doubles partner, Merrillville graduate Ashley Contreras, advanced to the state finals. This year, Barrick was the only player to advance to regionals and lost after two sets.



In preparation to hit the ball, Senior Hannelore Reynolds takes her stance. Reynolds has been playing tennis for four years. Her advice for next year's team is "stay dedicated, love what they do and let the racquet do the talking."



Senior Jennifer Tucker

Senior Kelsey Barrick

Senior Hannelore Reynolds

no fear.



peace. love. tennis.

Most Valuable
Kelsey Barrick



Leadership
Ashley Cherry



Most Improved
Hannelore Reynolds



Sportsmanship
Jennifer Tucker



Senior Hannelore Reynolds

In order to help them improve the game, Coach James Simon encourages Senior Ashley Cherry and Junior Pauline Laorden. Laorden said that Coach Simon was "telling us what we need to work on for the next two games before the changeover."

In an attempt to hit the ball, Junior Allison Kish stretches her body to reach the ball. After losing eight seniors last year, "we've stepped up a lot this year," Kish said. Next year, Kish hopes to improve their record from this year and work better together.

The girls on the 2008-09 tennis team agreed that the achievement that gave them the most pride this season was their record.

"Our greatest accomplishment this season was improving our record from last year," Junior Julie Hays said.

"We did a lot better than we thought we would with losing eight seniors," Senior Captain Jennifer Tucker added.

Newly instated morning practices could be credited with this improvement. The girls had morning practices for an hour Monday, Wednesday and Friday for nine days.

"They gave us more hitting

practice after school because we didn't have to condition as much. I think I'm in better shape," Junior Allison Kish remarked.

"Most of our success was in the

'Even though we haven't won a lot, we've improved.'
Jennifer Tucker

beginning of the season when we had morning practices," Tucker added.

Not only did their record improve, but their relationships with each other did as well.

"We bonded way more this season than any other," Sophomore Angela Reynolds stated.

"It was challenging in the beginning, but we matured together as a team," Kish added.

Better bonding off the court directly affected their playing on the court.

"We're working better as a team to get the points we need to win," Kish said.

The girls beat Lew Wallace in the first round of sectionals with a score of 5-0; however, they lost in the second round of sectionals to Hobart (3-2). Overall, the girls felt this season was a success.





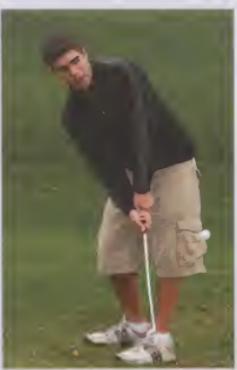
| Opponent | Score | W/L |
|--------------------|---------|---------------|
| Lowell | 185-197 | W |
| Boone Grove | 171-189 | L |
| Kankakee Valley | 189-210 | W |
| LaPorte | 162-189 | L |
| Portage | 189-187 | W |
| KV Invite | | |
| Chesterton | 149-183 | 10th L |
| Valparaiso | 168-185 | L |
| Wheeler | 175-182 | W |
| Bishop Noll | 175-183 | W |
| Lake Central | 162-181 | L |
| Michigan City | 161-181 | L |
| Boone Grove Invite | | |
| Crown Point | 175-195 | 5th L |
| Chesterton | 144-182 | L |
| Lake Central | 175-182 | L |
| Crown Point | 183-183 | W |
| Michigan City | 183-164 | L |
| LaPorte | 185-156 | L |
| DAC JV | | 7th L |
| Portage | 185-180 | L |
| Valparaiso | 184-156 | 7th DAC |
| Sectional | 358 | 4th Sectional |

DAC: 2-12
OVERALL: 6-13

BOYS' GOLF



Draw- A flight path of the ball in which the ball curves gently right-to-left for a right-handed player, or left-to-right for a left-handed player.



Slice- A type of shot in which the ball curves in the shape of a banana - starting out to the left of the target and then bending dramatically back to the right of the target.



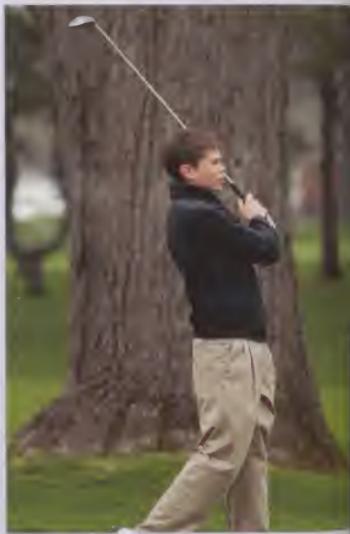
Fade- A trajectory or ball flight in which the golf ball comes off the clubface moving to the left of the target before curving gently back to the right.

Watching the ball down the green, Senior Stephen Carniello hits a flop shot. "My mom inspires me to play golf because she plays, and she gave me the great idea to try out for the team," Carniello said. With progress from last year, "I think we have greatly improved, and the team almost has 300 this season," Carniello added.

"To prepare for a match, I listen to my strengths and weaknesses of the upcoming game," Senior Matt Neese said. Neese sprints in to drive the ball to the green. "I feel the team is getting better and playing smarter," Neese added.



As he hits his approach shot, Senior Zachary Gibson watches closely. Being an amateur at golf, "I was watching some Tiger Woods, and the game inspired me to play golf. I have been playing since last fall, about a year or year and a half," Gibson said.



A golfer since he was 10, Freshman Sean Panning watches his drive soar onto the fairway. "It's my favorite sport. My grandfather inspires me because he taught me a lot about the sport," Panning said.

Junior Francis Martisovic

Senior Zachary Gibson

Senior Stephen Carniello

Senior Matthew Neese

Freshman Sean Panning



Boys' golf Coach Dave Hinkel tries to help his athletes to be the best that they can in the different aspects of golf.

"I usually talk more about the mental aspects of golf to the players," Coach Hinkel said.

"I also make sure to help with the basic fundamentals and foundations of the sport," Coach Hinkel added.

The team is at somewhat of a disadvantage, only being able to practice when weather conditions are ideal. They start practicing twice a week in February, with the

amount of practices increasing as the season progresses.

The golf team has also taken a major step toward improving their game by having PGA golf

'I usually talk more about the mental aspects of golf.'
Coach Dave Hinkel

professionals analyze their swings so they can try to correct the errors they see.

As far as the team's progress from year to year is concerned, Coach Hinkel said that it seems like the team's skills get better every year.

They set a goal before the season starts to be sure to make it farther than they did the previous year.

Coach Hinkel says that so far it seems like they will achieve that goal.

"This year's level of success matches the season best from ten years ago," Coach Hinkel said.

"We are making baby steps," he added.



Senior Stephen Carniello

After he tees off, Junior Francis Martisovic follows through on his swing. "I have been playing golf since I was little, and I chose to play because it is a fun matchup in high school competitions," Martisovic said. Over time, "my best game was regionals 2008, and my worst was sectionals 2007," Martisovic said.



Junior Francis
Martisovic

Senior Zachary Gibson.

Senior Matthew Neese

Senior Stephen Carniello

Frances Martisovic Most Valuable



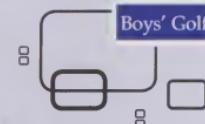
Matthew Neese Leadership



Stephen Carniello Sportsmanship



Zachary Gibson Most Improved



*new faces,
better scores.*



batter up.



Most Valuable
Kathyrae Harbold



Leadership
Sarah Williams



Sportsmanship
Lindsey Mitchell



Most Improved
Brenda Roy



Junior Natalie Riechers



Band-Aids, bruises, cuts and scrapes are all a part of the softball season.

"It's a hard-core sport. You go home with a different sore spot every day, but it's my entire heart. When I step on the field, I can't wipe the smile off my face," Senior Sarah Williams said.

The softball team is starting a freshman player for the second consecutive year. Freshman Mercedes McClelland was the shortstop starter for part of the season.

"Honestly, I was shocked. I had no idea that I'd be starting on the

dignity. adversity. resistance.



Sophomore Sydney Harold



Senior Sarah Williams



Junior Lindsey Mitchell



After fielding the ground ball, Sophomore Gabriella Ponce steps on second base to force Valparaiso's Natalie Novella out. "I started off playing baseball when I was around the age of six, and I really think that it has helped me out a lot with softball," Ponce said. Merrillville lost the game 14-1.



While focusing on the ball, Senior Brenda Roy gets ready to swing her bat. Before games can get pumped up for the games, she zones herself out from everyone and thinks of her strategies. "The best part of being in softball is being a senior," Roy said. Merrillville lost the game to Hebron with a score of 5-4.

high school team. It really made me open my eyes and realize that I needed to do my best and work my hardest to keep up with the other girls. I just keep my head up

'It's a hard-core sport... but it's my entire heart.'
Sarah Williams

and listen to my coaches and the other players. They help me a lot," McClelland said.

During the 2008 season, Sophomore Gabriella Ponce was a

freshman starting at shortstop.

"It was a lot to live up to. It was really my first year playing softball. I grew up playing baseball with my brothers, and many people don't think there's that big of a difference, but honestly, it was difficult gripping the ball and hitting. Eventually, though, I learned to change my habits, and I really do enjoy playing softball," Ponce said.

The highlight of the season was winning the opener against Gavit. It had been ten years since the softball team had won their opening game.





Junior
Chelsea Ojeroiles



Sophomore Gabriella Ponce



Senior Katalin
Lundberg Armstrong



Junior Kaitlynn Sterkowitz



Junior Sarah Mason



Freshman Mercedes McClendon



As Hebron's Stacy Blank blocks second base, Freshman Mercedes McClendon slides around her to be safe. "Living up to the responsibility of starting is the hardest thing I've had to face this year," McClendon said.



Concentrated on the play, junior Kaitlynn Sterkowitz stands ready to catch the ball. "Having different competition makes the game more interesting," Sterkowitz said.

Following the introductions, Senior Jennifer Crawley shares high fives with Junior Kaitlynn Sterkowitz (17) and Senior Brenda Roy (11). "I cannot believe how much the team has improved," Crawley said.



terminology of the field.



bunt: a legally batted ball not swung at, but intentionally tapped with the bat, usually attempted to advance a runner already on base



strike zone: the space over home plate between the batter's forward armpit and the top of the knees



stolen base: the advance of a runner to the next base without the side of a base hit, a putout, a fielding error, a passed ball or a wild pitch

SOFTBALL

| Opponent | Score | W/L |
|---------------|-------|-----|
| Gavit | 9-8 | W |
| Lowell | 9-0 | L |
| Griffith | 4-0 | L |
| Bishop Noll | 3-0 | L |
| Michigan City | 13-0 | L |
| Hebron | 5-4 | L |
| Crown Point | 16-0 | L |
| Penn State | 5-1 | L |
| Laf. Jeff | 5-0 | L |
| Niles | 12-0 | L |
| Perry | 7-2 | L |
| Lake Central | 7-2 | L |
| Portage | 6-0 | L |
| Valparaiso | 6-5 | L |
| Chesterton | 13-0 | L |
| LaPorte | 8-0 | L |
| KV | 7-4 | L |
| KV | 14-7 | W |
| Michigan City | 8-4 | W |
| Crown Point | 14-1 | L |
| Lake Central | 4-0 | L |
| Portage | 8-3 | L |
| Valparaiso | 14-1 | L |
| Chesterton | 7-3 | L |
| LaPorte | 9-0 | L |
| Andrean | 6-0 | L |
| Boone Grove | 9-7 | L |
| Sectional | | |
| Michigan City | 5-0 | L |

DAC: 1-13
OVERALL: 3-24





Varsity Softball

Coach Carolina Procter

Front row: Gabriela Ponce, Jennifer Crawley, Brenda Roy, Mercedes McClendon, Latoi Merriweather; Second row: Katalin Lundberg-Armstrong, Natalee Riechers, Kalle Domnikaitis, Lindsey Mitchell, Sarah Williams, Chelsea Oyravides; Back row: Assistant Coach Stephanie Nelson, Kaitlyn Sterkowitz, Coach Carolina Procter, Sarah Meson, Manager Sha'Pree Jackson.



Junior Varsity Softball

Coach Jacob Stafford

Front row: Stephenie Husek, Samantha Tomb, Ashley Ahlbom, Danielle Abel, Isabella Smith, Lauren Kiser; Second row: Nichole Anderson, Katherine Kolbert, Brittny Burke, Amendi Baneshak, Lauren Blackwell, Jordann Matthis, Jessica Martin; Back row: Assistant Coach Mark Reid, Hannah Webster, Jeannette Burbridge, Coach Jacob Stafford, Mia Patikas, Sydney Herold, Manager Lesley Richards.



Varsity Baseball

Coach Mark Ciesielski

Front row: Darren Bleylock, Xavier Ponce, Nicholas Falcianno, Kenneth Wright, Ryan Stokes, Joel VanWinkle; Second row: Kyle Strom, Colin Schefer, Eric Davis, Donald Cox, Christopher Knight, Zachery Forseil; Back row: Coach John Kwiatkoski, Coach Brad Schulte, Kevin Schroeder, Michael McNeil, Timothy Leicht, Coach Mark Ciesielski, Manager Samantha Serwecki.



Junior Varsity Baseball

Coach Anthony Hofer

Front row: Darren Bleylock, Paxton Barlenga, Brandon Smith, Rodney Trigg; Second row: Autry Phillips, Kyla Strom, Christopher Knight, Alex Quijano; Back row: Kyla Daniels, Coach Anthony Hofer, Zachery Resopovich.



Girls' Tennis

Coach James Simon

Front row: Nichole McFerland, Lee Neligan, Eleny Beblionine, Kelsey Sajdera, Ashley Wilkowski, Amber Medwetz, Ashley Cherry, Sylvia Suggs; Second row: Lauren Lambert, Morgan Lamb, Brina DeCaussemaker, Candice Lambert, Tiffany Lee, Lauren Lambert, Jennifer Tucker, Hennelore Reynolds; Back row: Coach Kim Nespinaki, Kelsey Barrick, Alison Krish, Allison Varela, Julie Heys, Angela Reynolds, Kelsey Washburn, Ana Adams, Coach James Simon.



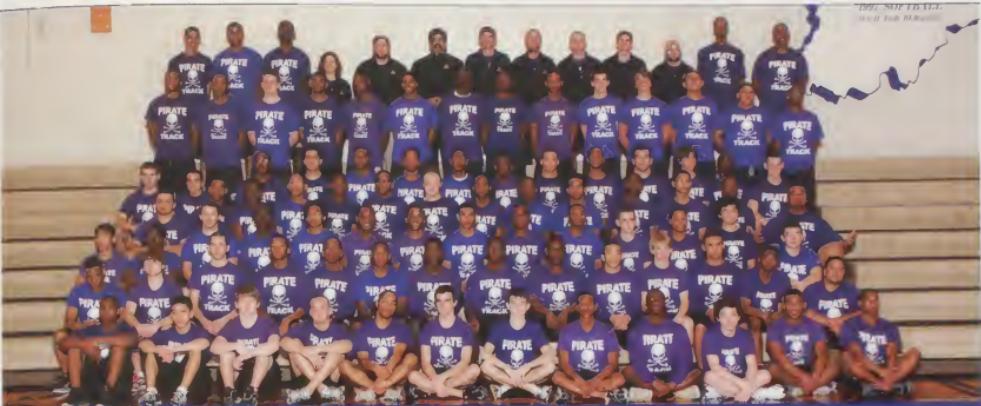
Boys' Golf

Coach David Hinkel

Front row: Leonard Mathews II, Arlen Sims, Michael Gillis; Second row: Steven Cregue, Joshua Belko, Malik Muhammed, Stephen Carnielo, Sean Penning; Back row: Gregory Phillips, Matthew Neese, Francis Mertisovic.



SPRING

**Boys' Track**

Coach Jim Johnston

Front row: Cathemore Jones, Peter Bertenga, Zachary Sandefur, David Jordan, Merkell Baldwin, Skylar Rothgeb, Ian Fultz, Christian Echols, Demetrius Morris, Dylan Crane, Darryl Peppers, Peyton Parker; Second row: Jaylen Bentley, Kyle Schroeder, Keith Pavlish, Dallas Wilson, James Posey, Cori Harris, Caleb Pirtle, Rehim Conwell, Arrell Ross-Williams, Logan Hubbard, Francis Dusik, Jonathan Harmon, Sean Lewis, Ryan Roddy; Third row: Luis Padille, Korey Smith, Deron Gornick, Sanchez Tete, Dylan Harrison, Romeo Harper, Brandon Torrey, Landau Lang, William Law, Cameron Mitchell, Adam Serwacki, Eric Bleck, Brandon Culver, Jerves Wilderness, Philip Hays; Fourth row: Brian West, Eddick Parker, Milton Davis, Darius Holland, Adonis Madry, Joshua Washington, Elbryan Goode, Christopher Bradley, Tyrone Brown, Jory Cunningham, Joshua Perry, Jacob Caddock, Trent Turner; Fifth row: Chris Stojenowski, Christopher Vele, Cedil Frink, Juan Ayeila, Kelly Wiggins, Elijah Samuels, Justin Patterson, Keon Jones, Kourtney Berry, Louis Craig, Valenti Atsas, Kevin Cervana, David Freemen, Tyler Roark; Sixth row: Derrick Hutton-Kinsey, Byron Ferrell, Paul Carey, Harold Turner, Ashton Cole, Daniel McGee, Melvin Davis, Ron Crosby-Green, Keith Dockery, Eric Herzog, Hugo Hemmen, Juquin Muro, Jamel Williams, David Cross; Back row: Carl Jones Jr., Dontarius Williams, John Mosley, Coach Grace Dewald, Coach Brian Past, Coach Louis Lopez, Coach Jim Johnston, Coach Ben Daniel, Coach Jeff Fairbeim, Coach Aaron Crawn, Coach Jeff Eaton, Timothy Moore, Julius Scroggins.

**Girls' Track**

Coach Jeff Eaton

Front row: Yakesi Lomax, Maria Martinez, Keisha Ferguson, Brianna Thompson, Brianna Clerk, Meierie Ortiz, Danice Carabajal, Ashley Finch; Second row: Morgan Taylor, Ava Meux, Cristan Washington, Breck White, Layrene Barrera, Chauncie Smith, Dore Martin-Elliston, Osha Brownlee, Jenneyi Burden, Breyanna Russ, Daniella Carabajal; Third row: Alicia Cook, Jennifer Arbo, Latrice Williams, Amber Scollon, Valerie Bly, Natalie Warren, Aubrey Cowser, Natascha Polenitz, Shyronnia Conwell, Dion'Dra Anderson, Rachela Best; Fourth row: Jennifer Adams, Tahine Abrams, Melissa Eggleston, Brigida Preciado, Shernika Winston, Blanca Portis, Spree Lang, Rachel Paul, Yesenia Vasquez, Reshonda Brooks, Lo'real Robinson, Morgan Walton; Fifth row: Coach Brian Past, Coach Grace Dewald, Mia Muhammed, Michelle Ross, Jaleesa Holmes, Alexandra Domoras, Nakel McClinton, Rebecca Neville, Ne'Shell Mitchell, Angelique Jernigan, LaShewnta Taylor, Sherie Paul, Coach Ben Daniel, Coach Jeff Eaton; Back row: Coach Jim Johnston, Coach Luis Lopez, Arlen Taylor, Melissa Weren, Megan Dicken, Tiera Simpson, Kayla Wiggins, Eva Foley, Kacey Cole, Ashley Jamerson, Jasmine Ervin, Coach Jeff Fairbairn, Coach Aeron Crawn.

sports-



Athletic trainers play an important role in the success of sports teams when it comes to keeping the players in their best physical conditions.

"It's an important job. Many athletes have injuries, some serious, and without the trainers, many athletes would not be participating in their sport," Senior Mallory Lancaster said.

Athletic trainers specialize in the prevention, treatment and healing of muscle injuries.

Trainers are the first health care providers on the scene when injuries occur; therefore, they must be able to recognize and assess injuries efficiently and effectively.

To be a student trainer, it is recommended that the

student takes the athletic training class to learn the skills necessary to provide immediate care when needed. Student trainers do not get paid for their work. They are expected to attend all football games

'... without the trainers, many athletes would not be participating in their sport.'
Mallory Lancaster

and practices. The student trainers support all sports, but football season is the focal point of the year.

Though it is a lot of work and very time consuming, becoming an athletic trainer is something students choose to do, whether it is for fun

or something the student is considering as a possible future career choice.

"Being an athletic trainer had a major impact on my career choice," Senior Michelle Ross said. "I am now going to major in athletic training in addition to elementary education."

The student trainers leave the training room with new ways to deal with stressful situations in a calm manner. They finish the season with numerous memories and knowledge gained through experience.

"If I had to describe the season, I would say it was a learning experience," Senior Tylar Davis said. "Looking from the outside it might look like we didn't do much, but we were constantly learning stuff we didn't know."

Among her duties as a trainer, Junior Kochil Logan prepares a leg of ice. "This is the easy stuff, like the ice and stem. The hard stuff is wrapping. I haven't mastered that yet," Logan said. Logan takes comfort in the assistance she receives from the other trainers.



With one year of athletic training knowledge and experience to guide her, Senior Tiffany Leicht uses medical pre-wrap to tape Junior Theresa Yugo's ankle. Leicht hopes to minor in sports medicine. "I love the medical part of it all, but I hate the feet," Leicht said when referring to applying the medical wrap on athletes.

Keeping busy in the athletic training room during the winter season, Junior Kochil Logan tapes Senior gymnast Arien Taylor's ankle for support and prevention of injuries. "I like being a trainer. It keeps me busy," Logan said. Logan has been involved with athletics as a manager during football season. Logan is now a trainer for the winter sports season. She plans to return as an athletic trainer next year as a senior, participating during the winter season alone.



Senior Tylar Davis and Sophomore Andrea Campos

Senior Tiffany Leicht

Seniors Mallory Lancaster and Michelle Ross



**saving
the game.**



While passing out water bottles, Senior Jessica Petalas stops to watch the game. Petalas has been an athletic trainer for football season all four years that she has attended Merrillville High School. Student trainers during football season stay along the sidelines during football games. Trainers must remain close to the action in case of an injury or emergency. "I love being so close to the game, and I really like the sport," Petalas said.



Focused on taping an ankle, Senior Tiffany Leicht gets the job done. "This has been a big priority. I try to help when I can," Leicht said. Leicht is present at many events which require trainers to help take care of the athletes. "I wish I would have done it all four years. I love it," Leicht said.



Carrying water bottles and towels, Seniors Michelle Ross and Mallory Lancaster help keep the players hydrated during a time-out. "Being an athletic trainer was really fun. I definitely would have been a trainer freshman through senior year if I could," Ross said. Athletic trainers are needed during all sports seasons. Ross and Lancaster participated in athletic training during the 2008 football season.

Sophomore Hannah Webster

Athletic Trainer Ms. Sue Hayes and Senior Keon Jones

Junior Xochitl Logan

Sophomore Chandler Hill and Senior Tiffany Leicht

Athletic Trainer Ms. Sue Hayes and Junior Xochitl Logan

Athletic Trainers Mr. Sean Hudson and Ms. Sue Hayes

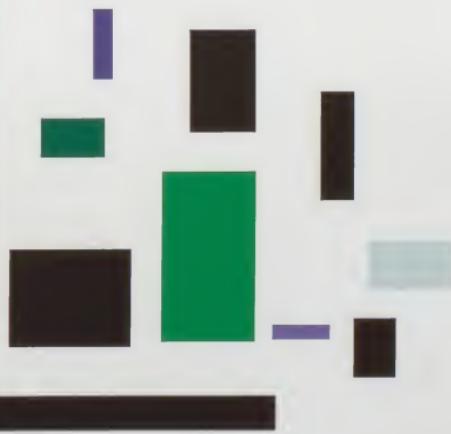






get concern.

Homecoming games, dances and community projects. High school wouldn't be the same without the extra events and the clubs members who organize them. Many students get involved outside of academics and make the best of their high school years by helping the community, socializing with others who share their beliefs and participating in their activities. Clubs and activities allow students to learn beyond the classroom. Benjamin Franklin said it best: "Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."



Key Club

Key Club devotes much of its time to giving back to the community in various ways throughout the school year. One major event that Key Club co-sponsors is the Chili Cook-off every spring in order to raise money for people who are suffering from lupus.

"We spent time getting donations for the auction baskets, an hour after school on Friday to decorate and seven hours on Saturday to work the event," Senior Nolan Solomon said.

There were 20 contestants who set up their own unique displays around the cafeteria in order to attract spectators to their chili.

"It was neat because we all dressed up

in costumes that described the theme of our chili," Senior Tyler Roark said.

This year's event had a large turnout of 325 spectators and ended up raising a total of \$4,600 which is \$500 more profit than the previous year.

"I was very happy about the turnout because we normally only get about 200 participants and this year we attracted 100 more people than last year," Solomon said.

Due to the large amount raised Key Club was able to make a good contribution to the Lupus Foundation.

"I am very glad that I joined Key Club because it is great to help the community and I also developed better leadership skills and met a lot of new people," Solomon said.



Hot dogs, pop and water were on sale at the concession stand during the annual Chili Cook-off, co-sponsored by Key Club and the Lupus Foundation. Ms. Taylor Granat, Lt. Gov. of the Dunceland Division of the Key Club, talks with Senior Nolan Solomon, Key Club vice president and Junior Sarah Martin, Key Club president. Senior Kenneth Albee, representing the National Honor Society, works with Key Club Secretary, Senior Amanda Spudic, to collect money.



Key Club

Sponsor Mrs. Carrie Bedwell

Front row: Amanda Spudic, Alexis Connelly, Melissa Warren, Hannah Webster, Lauren Kiser; Second row: Ken Davis, Nolan Solomon, Jeanne Saffrahn, Gregory Phillips; Back row: Mrs. Carrie Bedwell, Lesley Richards; Not pictured: Sarah Martin, Kathryn Banashak, Raevyn Harper.

Class of '09



Class of 2009 Officers

Sponsors Mr. James Stampfer, Mrs. Debbie Klippen and Mr. Jason Hostetler

Front row: Brianna Clark, Michael Sandridge, Caitlyn Spires, Hanelore Reynolds.

Class of '10



Class of 2010 Officers

Sponsor Mrs. Rae Lopez

Front row: Lakeshia Miles, Najeb Arifee, Amber Medwetz.

Class of '11



Class of 2011 Officers

Sponsor Mr. Anthony Hofer

Front row: Ken Davis, Alyson Austin, Daniel Armstrong.

Class of '12



Class of 2012 Officers

Sponsor Mr. Karl Regan

Front row: Dean Davis, Jeannette Burbage, Spree Lang, Mansoor Afzal

student government.

From school to community, students in Student Government perform acts of charity.

Senior Vice President Hanni Reynolds said there are many things that Student Government does around the community and for the school.

"We do a lot of fundraising for the Senior Class. We took care of the Christmas Wish List. We also were in charge of the Thanksgiving food drive," Reynolds said.

Along with charity work for the community, Student Government also takes part in sponsoring different activities within school.

Along with the Senior Class, underclassmen also take part to help out.

"I have been a part of Student Government for two years and it's a lot of fun helping set up for dances and helping out in the community," Sophomore Victor Rios said. "I was in Mr. Petralia's class freshman year and he asked me if I wanted to join. I wanted to be a part of something and make a difference, so once I joined I liked it and stuck with it," Rios added.

While working hard and contributing a lot to others, Student

Government students do not lack the fun that is included in all of its activities.

"I'm really looking forward to the upcoming fieldtrip. I'm sure it'll be a lot of fun," Senior President Brianna Clark said.

As Class President, Clark is in charge of organizing events and presenting ideas for fundraising throughout the year.

Along with Clark, Reynolds plays a big role as the Class Vice President.

Brianna Clark and I work together coming up with senior social activities and senior activities, like the Baccalaureate and Senior Breakfast. I am also in charge of assigning committees to each event," Reynolds said.

Each event is made possible not only by the class officers, but those involved with Student Government and those willing to make a change within their school and their community. Whether it be sponsoring a family fun fair, organizing a dance or collecting food to distribute to the needy, Student Government students work to make a difference wherever they can.

"The Wish List provides things that unfortunate families don't have for the holidays," Senior Hanni Reynolds said. On the final day of the Wish List project, Reynolds helps load the gifts that will be sent to the elementary schools on to the buses. This year was Reynolds' fourth and final time participating in this event. "The experience is so rewarding, especially because the children are incredibly happy to see us," Reynolds said.

With their arms loaded with festive holiday paper, Junior Devon Burton and Senior Ray Lewis prepare to wrap presents for the Student Government Wish List. "The Wish List is such an important event because it gives the children hope and lets them know that someone cares about them," Burton said. After about one month of preparation, the members were able to pull everything together to make the event a success. "Everyone really came together and worked hard to make it work," Burton said.



While she focuses on wrapping gifts, Junior Amber Scollon anticipates delivering the presents. "The sight of the children's faces makes all the work worth while. It is such a good feeling to help out and give back to less fortunate kids," Scollon said.



Student Government

Sponsor Mr. Nicholas Petralia

Front row: Amber Mervitz, Ava Meux, Keiko Cooley, Andrew King, Lakeshia Miles, Ch'ayra Eddie, Brionna Walker. Second row: Tanisha Miles, Hannelore Reynolds, Devon Burton, Amber Scollon, Jamie Roberts, Ashley Hite, Jillian Larson. Back row: Daniel Armstrong, Daniel Gronli, Ken Davis, Elijah Samuels, Juan Rivera, Sean Gibson, Mr. Nicholas Petralia.



Student Government Executive Board

Sponsor Mr. Nicholas Petralia

Front row: Ava Meux, Keiko Cooley, Brionna Walker, Ashley Hite. Back row: Daniel Gronli, Juan Rivera, Mr. Nicholas Petralia.



exploring world cultures.



Sponsor Mr. Al Stoner

Front row: Tanya Riveron, Nicole Tarulis, Sabrina Smith-Griggs, Andrea Stevenson, Daniel Armstrong; Second row: Leanne Meeker, Kevin McGee, Jonathan Shannon, Michelle Minard, Daniel Gronli, Michael Sweet; Back row: Olijuwawa Bates, Michael Rhoades, Dylan Roberts, Marisa Whittaker, Konstantinos Matzaris, Mr. Al Stoner. Not pictured: Rachel Drapeau, Zachary Swierc.



Sponsor Ms. Irene Spiro

Front row: Marissa Novak, Kathleen Baran, Courtney Bargfeldt, Lakeshia Miles, Kirsten Koharchik, Alexis Connolly; Second row: Alyson Austin, Heather Mihal, Rachel Drapeau, Amber Scollon, Samantha Murphy; Third row: Heather Kiel, Kimberly Coates, Jacob Kopf, Courtney Jones, Korey Loudermilk; Back row: Gregory Phillips, Ms. Irene Spiro, Francis Martisovic, Tyler Roark. Not pictured: Brandon Taylor.



Sponsor Mr. Al Stoner

Front row: Michelle Battle, Dane Ezernack, Larry Cooper, Mr. Al Stoner; Back row: Dylan Roberts, Nathan Koenemann.





Under the direction of Spanish teacher Ms. Esmeralda Palmerin, Freshman Crystal Quintero learns a new dance. "It was very interesting to learn something new from the Spanish culture," Quintero said.

Next in line for the piñata, Freshmen Christian Williams waits his turn. This is Williams' first year taking French. "All of my friends were taking Spanish, so I decided to be different," Williams said.



After all the festivities, world language club members pose for a group picture. "It was a really fun experience to try all the new foods," Junior Konstantinos Matzaris said.



Trying foods from around the world, Seniors Kevin McGee, Junior Marley Whittaker and Senior Michael Sweet sample the different foods at the potluck. "Besides eating, we sang Christmas carols in the different languages," Sweet said.

World language teachers Mr. Al Stoner, Ms. Irene Spiro, Mrs. Mary Ann Bertam and Ms. Esmeralda Palmerin work with students after class to introduce them to world cultures.





To encourage players and fans to practice good sportsmanship and respect, Senior Romeo Harper reads a script prepared by members of MPAC before a home basketball game. "To be a part of MPAC makes me feel like a good athlete and makes me want to continue to keep up the good work," Harper said.

Junior Allison Kish exchanges t-shirts with an athlete from another school at an MPAC conference. "The Fun Fair was interesting because it was my first year participating, and there were a lot of children who got involved, but I influence others to get involved by telling them to make the right choices and decisions," Kish said.



Members of the football team set up an obstacle course for the youngsters to navigate. "The kids liked the obstacle course because it involved running, but it was fun working with the little kids," Junior Monte Brown, who was a first-time participant in the Fun Fair, said.

"Being a representative, I get the chance to talk to younger children about different sports they can join," Senior Kelsey Barrick said. MPAC members not only have the responsibility of being athletes, but they also serve as role models for younger students. Barrick sits for the dunk tank during the annual Fun Fair for youngsters hosted by the Athletic Department.



"Working with Ms. (Janis) Qualizza and getting involved with the core group of athletes is the best part about being in MPAC because we have the choice to decide what we can do to enhance athletic enrollment," Senior Kate Tarr said. Tarr reads an announcement encouraging sportsmanship before a home basketball game.



"We played games that corresponded to wrestling, and the kids really enjoyed it," Senior William Costakis said. The wrestling obstacle course showed younger children a little bit about wrestling.



Leadership, dedication, commitment, hard work and Pirate pride are some qualities of a Merrillville Pirate Athletic Council member.

"MPAC is a leadership organization that a coach chooses one senior and one junior from the sport they represent. They are chosen based on their leadership on the team, and also in the athletic program," Athletic Director Ms. Janis Qualizza said.

MPAC aims to increase the involvement in athletics. They host and participate in many events that influence children to join sports earlier. Many MPAC members make this their personal goal.

"My goal this year is to get more people involved in sports," Senior Brian West said.

MPAC participates in many activities throughout the school year that benefit students by getting them involved in sports. They also participate in events benefiting the community.

"We participate in the Chili Cook-off, assemble a Fun Fair for younger kids, speak at basketball games about sportsmanship and also buy gifts for two children for Christmas," Ms. Qualizza said.

"Every summer around June, I've participated in the Leadership IHSSA conference in Indianapolis for the past two years. I help get more ideas to help out the athletic program," Senior Kate Tarr said.

The best part about MPAC is helping work with Ms. Qualizza and make decisions about what makes athletics better," Tarr added.



MPAC

Sponsor Ms. Janis Qualizza

Front row: Katelyn Ush, Danielle Carabajal, Aubrey Cowser, Kelsey Seidra, Kate Tarr, Nati Fischer, Francis Dusik, Kelsey Barrick; Second row: Emily Kurczynski, Michelle Ross, Tiffan Robertson, Melissa Warren, Bryonna Davis, Tierra Turner, Kendall Bonick; Third row: Anthony Napules, Emilia Stojova, Ryan Stokes, Francis Marlisovic, Tierra Simpson, Romeo Harper, Stephen Camiello; Back row: Jacob Caddick, Landau Lang, Kevin Schroeder, Sanchez Tate J. Jacob Pavel. Not Pictured: William Costakis Jr.

stand

Promoting an appreciation for diversity through community service, social togetherness and national diversity are the key building blocks for STAND, Socially Together And Naturally Diverse.

"My goal this year for STAND is to make a positive difference in our school. There is so much good going throughout this school we can contribute to make it better," Sponsor Danny Lackey said.

"I chose to be in STAND to help the school and the community in a creative and positive way," Director of Leadership Junior Pauline Laorden said.

STAND focused on many events this year: the Youth Workshop, Freshman Mentor Program, International Coffee House and Clothing Drive. Also, the event that

stood out this year was the Martin Luther King Day Inspirational Brunch, which was held on January 17.

"We reached out not only for the schools, but we also reached out to the people in the community," Director of Alumni Senior Keshia Mathis said.

"We had a big turnout. The Voices of Reason sang. We also had lots of music, skits and a bunch of food," Mr. Lackey said.

Being in STAND creates many new memories and friendships.

"The best parts about STAND are the bonds within our program. It's a family-like atmosphere," Mathis added.

"I like being able to work with and meet people through community service," Laorden said.



STAND

Sponsor Mr. Danny Lackey
Front row: Ryan Roddy, Ronald McMillian, Kourtney Givens, Keshia Mathis, Brittny Castelli, Eli Vazquez; Second row: Brianna Collins, Taylor Carter, Brittany Jones, BreAnn Pulpus, Christine Peden, Mark Campbell; Third row: Stephanie Miller, Monique McMillian, Shermika Winston, Amber Scollon, Jamie Roberts, Samantha Murphy; Fourth row: Joshua Stacker, Nicholas Vibanco, Romeo Harper, Jacob Kopf, Derek Shea, Brandon Taylor, Jose Gonzalez; Back row: Edwin Smith, Rah-Kimm Cherry, Lance Robinson, Antonio Ross, Johnathan Wallace, Mr. Danny Lackey.



During the annual Clothing Drive, STAND members Sean Roddy (left) and other STAND members sort through clothes given to the Salvation Army. STAND has its own service project, Senior Roots Build-Sale.

The best experience being in STAND is knowing and following the community and showing simple ways I just love life smile & give on certain occasions. It's just inspiring. Junior Brittny Castelli said. Castelli volunteers at a soup kitchen she has helped for the Anti-Discrimination League meeting. I joined STAND because as a freshman I was new to boarding and I need to find a good community service, and I love to help others. It's like a family. It's a will of trust. Castelli said.



From the annual service project, Sophomore Meghan McMillan has a smile on her face. "I get excited every December when winter comes because of the Winter Wonderland," McMillan said. This year was her second year participating in STAND's Winter Wonderland activities. "It gives the children a chance to have a day off [of school], which is absolutely nice, and it's just an overall great opportunity for the children to get out and have fun," McMillan said.

While they add a bit of color to buildings, Senior Ryan Roddy, Indiana Thomas Laorden and Senior Ryan Stiles build their facilitator skills. This year the three students were selected by the diversity room at the Anti-Discrimination League. Through the year, the room's seven members will travel as a team to ten members' homes to facilitate discussions about diversity and various controversial topics. The members strive to have their own interpretation of deep discussions without passing judgment, STAND sponsor Mr. Danny Lackey said.



During the Anti-Discrimination League (ADL) meetings, Senior Michael Vazquez and others from year 10 can increase their learning by less than building himself. The Anti-Discrimination League meetings taught STAND members how to act rather than communicating about building racism and discrimination. The members who were through the ADL meetings are continuing a few in the rest of the STAND members and those that are not. The Anti-Discrimination League teaches biology and environmentalism and unity amongst everyone.



"I felt I made a difference because giving a life is always making a difference," Senior Jessica Aldridge said. "Giving blood has shown me there are people in the world that are less fortunate than me and need my help, and if it was me, I would want the same in return," Aldridge said.



helping the community.



With a calm look on his face, Junior Allen Amitoelau was "trying to get through the process, even though afterwards I felt sleepy, dizzy and less energetic," Amitoelau said.

saving lives.



A first-time blood donor, Senior Eric Terry relaxes as he waits for blood to be drawn. "I would definitely give blood again. The process allowed me to be more aware on the need for giving blood," Terry said.



Two blood drives and two dances keep the members of Family, Consumer and Career Leaders of America (FCCCLA) busy.

Sponsored by Family and Consumer Sciences teacher Ms. Carol Von Behren, FCCLA students develop leadership skills through these activities at the high school as well as district, state and national level conferences.

Junior Amber Medwetz is one of the presidents of the club. "It's a lot more work than I thought it was going to be, but I'm glad I joined. Just knowing I touched a person's life makes me feel like a good citizen," Medwetz said.

FCCLA members work with Heartland Blood Center to sponsor two blood drives each year. "One is in December, when there is always a severe shortage of blood due to the holidays," Ms. Von Behren said. The other is in March. In the 2008-09 school year, students donated 128 units during the December drive.

About 100 special education students from five local schools enjoyed dancing at the Inclusion Dance during the Valentine's Day weekend. The work for the FCCLA

students didn't stop on Thursday. The next night, they sponsored the Freshman-Sophomore Winter Formal when about 120 students enjoyed a DJ with a big-screen TV. Dorian Pickett was selected Freshman Dance Queen and Stephanie Lobody was selected Sophomore Dance Queen.

"Our Krispy Kreme fundraisers covered the cost of the Inclusion Dance, the refreshments, the gift bags, the door prizes and the photos, since this is a free dance for the special needs students," Ms. Von Behren noted.

"This is my first year and I love it. I have lots of fun helping other people," Junior Alexis Connolly said. "I joined because there was low participation and also due to my friends joining. So I said, 'Why not,'" Junior Shannon Wood said.

The 20 active FCCLA members are eligible for scholarships through their involvement in community service activities, such as the blood drives, dances and state competitions in career and technical areas. Co-presidents are Juniors Amber Medwetz and Jillian Larson. Co-secretaries are Juniors Kimberley Coates and Kathleen Baran.



Family, Career and Consumer Leaders of America

Sponsor Ms. Carol Von Behren

Front row: Kathleen Baran, Sabrina Abrams, Amber Medwetz, Sarah Martin, Lakeshia Miller; Second row: Cha'yra Eddie, Kirsten Koharchik, Alexis Connolly, Jillian Larson; Back row: Kimberley Coates, Ryan Malone, Aubrey Cowser, Julie Hays.



fea.

Students interested in the field of education find a home in the Future Educators of America organization that social studies teacher Mr. James Stamper sponsors.

Club members participate in many activities, including Bowl for Kids. More than 100 people enjoyed an evening of bowling at Stardust Lanes in Merrillville and raised \$3,000. That money is earmarked for scholarships that FEA awards at the end of the school year.

FEA's Future Educator Award is a merit-based scholarship and the committee selects scholarship

winners based on high school grades, recommendations, community service, leadership skills and extracurricular activities. In 2008, seven students earned scholarship money that was applied toward their tuition.

Because of the flooding that devastated the area in September, Mr. Stamper called on his FEA members to assist the senior class in a relief effort. "They helped more than 20 families in the area in the course of six weekends," Mr. Stamper said.

In the spring, students also job shadow teachers in the elementary, intermediate and middle schools.

"I performed at my first ever FEA Leadership Academy in January. I had fun! It was a great experience to have fun, learn, and make new friends. It was an opportunity to help the future and it could prove to be life changing."



teaching the youth.



"Young men from our local town, South Bend, Indiana are involved in Bowl for Kids. It is a great opportunity to help my family. I would like to make the youth learning more about youth issues. I want to be a good citizen and to continue the tradition of giving back." - Michael Mazzoni

marine biology.



Marine Biology
Sponsor Mr. Jeff Yelton
Front row: Kirsten Koharchik, Spree Lang; Back row: Mr. Yelton, Elbrynn Goode, Dylan Certa.

"I am involved in Bowl for Kids because it is a great way to help my community. I am involved with Mr. Stamper, Mr. Certo, and Mrs. Antolini." - Michael Mazzoni



providing opportunities.



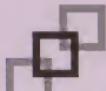
"I am involved in Bowl for Kids because it is a great way to help my community. I am involved with Mr. Stamper, Mr. Certo, and Mrs. Antolini." - Michael Mazzoni





"When I bowl, Iivil myself that we have a talent and we need to take advantage of it."

Senior
Brandon Taylor



"As I'm bowling, I try to stay strong and win this one for the team."

persistence.



Senior
Aaron Curtis

commitment.



Senior
Erin Marek

"During a match, I try to think of every single frame as a game in itself."

dedication.



Girls' Bowling Team

Coaches David Larson and Paula Larsen

Front row: Sarah MacDonald, Brenda Pidgeon, Jillian Larson, Robin Williamson, Caitlyn Kouli; Back row: Coach David Larson, Erin Marek, Erin Weiss, Elizabeth Weiss, Kimberly Coates, Coach Paula Larson.



bowling.

Bowling can be exciting, hard work, or even something that may offer some security, Senior Erin Marek believes.

"Bowling is just something that makes me feel secure. It somehow makes me feel kind of safe in a way," Marek said.

Bowling is a team sport. Without everyone coming together and helping one another, the bowling team would not be successful.

"When you are a part of a bowling team, you are a part of something that is bigger than yourself. Working together is a must if you want to get anywhere. It has also taught me to cooperate with other people," Marek said.

Bowling Coach Mrs. Paula Larson sees high school bowling as something that should never be forgotten.

"There is just nothing in the world like bowling in high school. You just never see so many people come together and work as a team to accomplish one common goal. It's just the best experience anyone could have," Mrs. Larson said.

Even though the teams have gone far, there still are some setbacks. The teams have to raise their own money to be able to participate in bowling.

"The fact that we have to raise money is kind of a setback for the team. Instead of being able to fully enjoy the experience, we are scrambling trying to get money together, but in the end it all pays off," Mrs. Larson said.

Trust is a key factor of a bowling team.

"In order to be successful, it takes a strong and trustworthy team that gets together to get as far as we have," Mrs. Larson said.

Mr. Terrell Taylor coaches the boys' team. The girls' bowling team has advanced to semi-state.



Boys' Bowling Team

Coach Terrell Taylor

Front row: Scott Gedda, Tyler Shockley, Jamal Thomas, Skylar Rothgeb, Sean Schafer; Back row: Nicholar Schuffert, Dwight Wright, Tyler Harris, Brandon Taylor, Aaron Curtis, Zachary DeRolf, Coach Terrell Taylor.

nhs.

2008 walk-a-thon.

Students who display academic excellence and leadership while in school are invited to join the National Honor Society.

In order for students to be considered for NHS, some requirements have to be met. The students must have a 3.5 GPA or above, they must have a teacher recommendation, they must also display some type of leadership and they must be committed to being service-oriented.

"To get into the National Honor Society, I kept my grades up and stayed out of trouble," Senior James Manis said.

People of NHS do many things. They participate in group service projects, such as the Walk-A-Thon. Some of the students also work at homeless shelters.

I think that these special service projects help the students see that there are other people who need help. I think it helps them realize how fortunate they are." Sponsor Mrs. Patrice Weil said.

Many of the students enjoy helping out their communities and students of their school.

"I really like the Walk-A-Thon because it helps to raise money for the Special Needs Department," Senior Sanam El-Quesney said.

Mrs. Weil said she hopes that through NHS, the students who are selected become productive members of society.

"I hope that helping people who are in need becomes a part of who the students are," Mrs. Weil said.

The induction ceremony takes place in the auditorium the first Sunday in March.

these shoes are made for walking.



National Honor Society

Sponsor Mrs. Patrice Weil

Front row: Jhai Dickerson, Caitlyn Kotul, Paloma Escalante, Sanam El-Quesney, Kirsten Koharchik, Anel Valenzuela, Arika Ivery, Courtney Bargfeldt; Second row: Romeo Harper, Amanda Spudic, Alyssa Brindley, Cora Boender, Michelle Ross, Jennifer Tucker, Katherine Sadurak, Caitlyn Spires, Mrs. Patrice Weil; Third row: Desmond Jones, Lindsay Mendez, Mallory Lancaster, Brittany Mendoza, Emilia Stojlova, Lesley Richards, Brandon Taylor, Gregory Phillips, Matthew Nathan; Back row: Markeil Baldwin, James Manis, Kenny Albee, Tyler Roark, Cody Niles, Kevin O'Neill, Taylor Douglas, Nolan Solomon, Eric Terry.



Senior Sanam El-Quesney gets a free ride atop the shoulders of Senior Desmond Jones during the annual National Honor Society walk-a-thon on the track around the soccer field. Most of the money raised came from people who sponsored the walkers. Several local businesses, including Berey Brothers, The Stallings Group and Quality Home Repair made donations. The Athletic Department and Ms. Sue Kendera also donated money.



During a cold December day, Seniors Caitlyn Spires and Michelle Ross take a break after a few laps around the track. "It was the walk-a-thon, and because I'm on the National Honor Society board, I had to go, but I didn't mind," Spires said. Each walker was required to take 13 laps. "If I could go back to the walk-a-thon, I'd wear an extra pair of pants," Spires said to emphasize the temperature. Spires and Ross joined 38 NHS members and 17 teachers and administrators in walking and raising \$1264 for students in the Special Needs Department. "We exceeded our goal by \$164," NHS sponsor Mrs. Patrice Weil said, "and had 13 more participants than last year."



"The fact that I got to walk with my friends for a good cause made the walk-a-thon memorable for me," Senior Christopher Crawford said. He walks with Senior Courtney Bargfeldt around the track in what was windy, rainy and cold weather. "We went through a lot of coffee and hot chocolate," NHS sponsor Mrs. Patrice Weil said.



Ten events — with objective tests in English, math, science, economics, fine arts, science, plus a super quiz speech, interview and essay — based on Mexico and evolution. This was the challenge before members of the Academic Decathlon team.

They began preparing in August, meeting twice a week for 90 minutes, reading, summarizing and discussing the study materials.

"The worst part is how much you have to study. It takes 100 percent dedication, and you have to put a lot of time in it," Senior Eric Terry said.

During a competition, Terry blocks out everything and focuses in on what is in front of him and does the best that he can.

When the Duneland Area Competition was held at Gavit High School January 24, the team finished strong, but missed state qualifications by a small margin.

"Unfortunately, we were not competing with a complete team, which significantly impacted our scores," Sponsor Ms. Rachel Bateman said. "However, the team maintained a positive attitude, and they set personal goals."

academic decathlon



Academic Decathlon

Sponsors Ms. Rachel Bateman and Mrs. Kira Healy

Front row: Devon Burton, Ms. Rachel Bateman, Lauren Carniello, Courtney L. Jones; Second row: Najeb Arifee, Mansoor Arifee, Zachary Swierc; Back row: Ryan Malone, Brandon Taylor.

The 60-second clock begins ticking once the question is asked. Like Jeopardy, they must be the first to buzz in with the right answer. Four members make up a team, with alternates able to switch between rounds. Unlike many other competitions, there is no way to prepare for Quiz Bowl competitions. In this academic competition, students are quizzed on their general knowledge. Quiz Bowl questions can come from any subject in the high school curriculum as well as current events, sports and pop culture.

"You can't prepare for Quiz Bowl. There are just random questions. So you just have to watch the news or look up current events," Freshman Mansor Arifee said.

"It's really all a lot of random knowledge," Sponsor Mr. Jay Sonnenberg said.

During the competitions, Arifee had to learn to be more patient.

"If you buzz in too early, you automatically lose the points," Arifee said. Quiz Bowl runs from December to early March.

"We just missed going to state this year," Mr. Sonnenberg added. "We finished sixth in the Duneland Conference."

quiz bowl.



Quiz Bowl

Sponsor Mr. Jay Sonnenberg

Front row: Mansoor Arifee, Sarah Martin, Sabrina Smith-Griggs, Courtney Jones; Second row: LaVontecia Gist, Blair McDaniel, Rachel Grapean; Back row: Zachary Swierc, Kenny Albee, Najeb Arifee.



super bowl.



Academic Super Bowl

Sponsors Mrs. Evelyn Steiner and Mr. Rob Bedwell

Front row: Mansor Arfee, Sarah Martin, Mrs. Evelyn Steiner, Courtney L. Jones; Second row: Alyssa Nymeyer, LaVontecia Gist, Rachel Drapean; Back row: Zachary Swierc, Mr. Rob Bedwell, Najeb Arfee.

The 2008-09 Academic Super Bowl team was faced with an unusual and uncommon topic — Norse culture. They began studying in the fall, and by April, they were ready to be tested in five subject areas: science, social studies, English, fine arts and mathematics. Armed with study guides, the science team studied Norse navigation and the English team studied "Beowulf." Fine Arts students became versed in the instruments used by the Norse culture. They competed against 30 Super Bowl teams from across the state through a series of multiple choice questions.

Junior Najeb Arfee finds it challenging to prepare for the Super Bowl competitions.

"You gotta study and go to websites and read books because that is where the answers are," Arfee said.

This year's social studies team of Senior Eric Terry, Juniors Zac Swierc and Najeb Arfee placed third at the local competition. Terry, Arfee, Junior Courtney Jones and Junior Sarah Martin also placed third in the Interdisciplinary round.

"I have learned that hard work really pays off, and I learned a lot about the Vikings, too," Arfee said.

spell bowl.



Spell Bowl

Sponsor Mrs. Evelyn Steiner

Front row: Mansor Arfee, Mrs. Evelyn Steiner, Alyssa Nymeyer, Courtney L. Jones, Back row: Zachary Swierc, Blair McDaniel, Najeb Arfee.

Begin with 14 pages of words to study, everything from "arson" to "zoning," and the more difficult, "eucalyptus" to "sarcophagus." Junior Zachary Swierc has experienced this firsthand.

"You're given a few thousand words, and you have to learn how to spell them. You just have to study it," Swierc said.

Then comes the competition. Ten rounds of nine words each, read by an emcee. Competitors are given 15 seconds to write the word. Although Spell Bowl is a group, the competitions work differently.

"The whole competition is complicated. There is no team to back you. It's an individual effort," Swierc said.

The Senior Spell Bowl Competition took place on October 20. The MHS team scored 53 points, not enough to advance to the state competition.

Although the competitions are challenging, Swierc said he enjoys himself.

"The best part is just learning where your limits are and learning how hard I am capable of working. I enjoy the competition and my team," Swierc said.

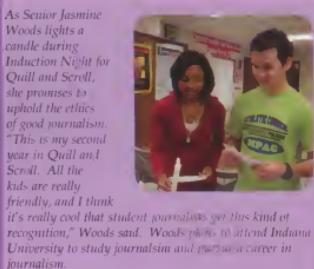




After looking over her notes, Senior Hanneire Reynolds writes a news story for the front page of The Mirror. "Newspaper class has been the best class I've taken in high school. I advise students to take this class because it helps with writing, listening and social skills. I've loved every moment with the staff," Reynolds said.



Focusing on her news story, Junior Patricia Zimmerman writes a story for the news section. "Newspaper rocks! It's my first year, and the staff is really friendly. They always help each other. It's one of the more fun classes I take, although it is still pretty challenging, but we could always use more reporters and story writers, and I definitely think that anyone who can write well and is dedicated should join," Zimmerman said.



As Senior Jasmine Woods lights a candle during Induction Night for Quill and Scroll, she promises to uphold the ethics of good journalism. "This is my second year in Quill and Scroll. All the kids are really friendly, and I think it's really cool that student journalists get this kind of recognition," Woods said. Woods plans to attend Indiana University to study journalism and pursue a career in journalism.



During the induction ceremony, Senior Morgan Taylor reads aloud the Quill and Scroll pledge. "Quill and Scroll is an honor society for student journalists, and we perform community service projects," Taylor said. Taylor plans to attend Indiana University to study journalism.

newspaper.



Newspaper

Adviser Mrs. Teresa Procter

Front row: Morgan Taylor, Brianna Clark, Jessica Aldridge, Jasmine Woods; Second row: Patricia Zimmerman, Hanneire Reynolds, Tylar Davis, Charmise Cole, Julia Dicken; Back row: Jasmine Lopez, Lydia Hawkins, Christopher Crawford, Siaka Cassell.

quill and scroll.



Quill and Scroll

Sponsor Mrs. Teresa Procter

Front row: Morgan Taylor, Alyssa Lynn Richmond, Suzette Siboney Sanchez, Naudia Bradley; Second row: Jasmine Woods, Rhonda McGuire, Catherine Gamino, Rachel Mendez, Lindsay Mendez; Third row: Mallory Lancaster, Emilie Stejova, Michelle Ross, Kelsey Barnick, Julia Dicken; Back Row: Keith Pavlish, Danus Battle, Christopher Crawford, De Rios; Not pictured: Hanneire Reynolds.



voices of reason.



Voices of Reason

Sponsor Mrs. Christine Kibler-Wheeler

Front row: Antonio Ross, Andre Ross, Keshia Mathis, Adriean Weaver, Alyssa Ross, Amerita Smith, Sowell, Shere, Jimmie Jones, Keiko Cooley, Inesha Smith, Taylor Carter, Shaunce Holbrook, Tia Rucker, Mary Williams, Chantel Clark, Third Row: Ashtrine Hopkins, Lauren Blockwell, Meechell Godfrey, Treasura' Sowell, Shere Patis, Back Row: Paletta Strickles, Reinold Robinson, Brandon Wright, Alexx Wright, Christopher Wilson, Mia Patikas.



Singing along with the other students, Senior Keisha Mathis sits in the arena practicing for a concert. "Us being Christians, it's hard to maintain the right image us being teens, but Voices of Reason gives us a reminder of our lifestyle, and it helps us be more like a family rather than individuals," Mathis said.

Playing the keyboard to keep students active, Senior Antonio Ross leads the students of Voices of Reason in song. "It's a challenge leading a group this big. We've had fun this year, and I've had a lot of fun getting to know everyone and being a part of something that has such a huge impact on our school," Ross said. Ross will be graduating this year.



chess club.



Chess Club

Sponsor Mr. Sean Meagher

Front row: Adam Bridle, Daniel Pollicchio, Amber Scollon, Jamie Roberts, Antoine Gregory, Second Row: (left to right) Gronki, Alexander Luna, Corey Weatherspoon, Marley Whittaker, Back row: Mr. Meagher, Christian Woodburn, Nicholas Schufert, Joshua Nevins-Frey, Cody Niles.

Challenging a student to a game of chess, Mr. Sean Meagher heads the chess club and has high hopes for the team. "We have some good players. They're solid, and my goal this year is to bring home a trophy from team state," Mr. Meagher said.



Focusing on his next move, Freshman Kenjiro Nangin is challenged by an upperclassman. "I like to play chess; it's very entertaining to me. I like to make up different strategies, and in chess, you use a lot of strategy," Nangin said. Nangin hopes to either place first or second at the state tournament.



building trades.



Building Trades A

Teacher Mr. Bob Mackovyak

Front row: Michael Crist, Mr. Bob Mackovyak, Darius Richmond, Jacob Tokarczyk; Back row: Brian West, Michael Magee, William Bradley, Perry Gordon IV.



Building Trades B

Teacher Mr. Bob Mackovyak

Front row: Mr. Bob Mackovyak, Devin Schreiber, Nick Furlic, Zach Johnson; Second row: Jeremy Vislosky, Jacob Alvarez, Tevin Pearson; Back row: Andrew Wilson, Ed Packwood.



dramatic society.



Dramatic Society

Director Ms. Nikki James

First row: Ms. Nikki James, Taylor Carter, BreAnn Pulhus, Nicole Varela, Marissa Novak, Courtney Bargfeldt, Megan Harms; Second row: Kathleen Murphy, Sarah Dora, Brianna Collins, Michelle Ambrose, Shaina Pullum, Mayra Salinas, Madison Cofield; Third row: Cora Boender, Caitlyn Spires, Angelica Spaw, Elizabeth Whelan, Jose Gonzalez, Gregory Phillips, Patricia Millard; Back row: Elliot Foley, Kelsie Boone, Johnathan Wallace, Richard Smith, Kyle Daniels.



SOSA

Sponsor Ms. Melissa Volkman

Front row: Megan Harms, Courtney Bargfeldt, Jazmin Saez, Heather Mihal; Second row: Cora Boender, Jillian Simmons, Michael Sciegiet; Back row: Ms. Melissa Volkman, Mark Campbell



Staying in character, Nat (Senior Caitlyn Spires) recites her lines to the audience in the MHS production of "Rabbit Hole." Spires was awarded Best Supporting Actress for her performance at state. The whole experience was, "Surreal, shocking and just really exciting," Spires said.

Biting his lower lip, Jason (Sophomore Kyle Daniels) closes his eyes in contemplation. The "Rabbit Hole" cast traveled to Penn High School for regionals, where Daniels won Best Supporting Actor. "I am usually a happy person, but in order to fit my character to the best of my ability, I listened to sad music and thought of bad moments," Daniels said.



During a scene in "Raision in the Sun," Howie (Senior Jonathon Wallace) quarrels with his mother (Senior Rebecca Neville) as they discuss money issues. Wallace won a superior award and Best Actor at state. Wallace said he feels that he has grown as an actor. "I did a lot of research on depression and also spent time with Ms. Nikki James and her son to better fit my character," Wallace said.



Victoria DeSoto, Darius White and Nate Edge open gifts they exchanged with each other during the annual holiday party.

aktion club.



At the annual Homecoming Dance, Krystal Greene shares a smile with Ashley Reynolds. Greene graduates this year.

Action Club

Sponsor Mrs. Barb Dlouhy

Front row: Krystal Greene, Derrian Baker, Da'Sheanna Hearst, Anastasia Gutierrez, Kiara Smith, Jonathon Salkoski. Second row: Derek Williams, Victoria DeSoto, Jordan Johnson, Russell Parkhurst, Terrance Johnson; Back row: Mrs. Barb Dlouhy, Darius White, Nathan Barnes, Kearo Adams, Nathaniel Edge.

At the Special Olympics Bowling practice, Nate Edge takes his turn.



special olympics.



Special Olympics Basketball Team

Coach Mike Knight

Front row: Derek Williams, Derrian Baker, Jonathon Salkoski, Terrance Johnson; Back row: Darius White, Victoria DeSoto, Jordan Johnson, Russell Parkhurst, Nathan Barnes.



The Special Olympics basketball season runs from December through March. The MHS team included Darius White and Derek Williams, who graduates this year.

sadd.



Giving a speech to the other Merrillville High School students, Senior Danice Carbajal takes part in SADD's Candlelight Walk. This is Carbajal's first year participating in the SADD. She joined with some of her friends from the girls' and boys' soccer teams.



Participants join two candles at SADD's Candlelight Walk. Students walked from the football stadium to the front of the building.

SADD

Sponsor Ms. Kim Surovick

First row: Danice Carbajal, Daniella Carbajal, Nicole Varela, Nicolle Brindley, Sarah Martin, Donisha Webster; Second row: Maria Sanchez, Suzette Sanchez, Paula Driotez, Ruby Maldonado, Harlene Haro; Third row: Romeo Harper, Jesus Garcia, Chelsea Oyervides, Ian Fultz, Brandon Taylor; Back row: Juan Hernandez, Brandon Brack, Andrew Goralczyk, Ms. Kim Surovick.

pnn.



With a deadline looming, Senior adviser Zachary Szwinski edits a segment for the Friday Show. Szwinski works with Seniors Samantha Serwacki and Tyler Roark as advisers for the weekly show.



While filming her segment for the Morning Show, Junior Pauline Lorden takes a break. "The class has helped me develop my reporting and writing skills and also helped working with cameras," Lorden said.

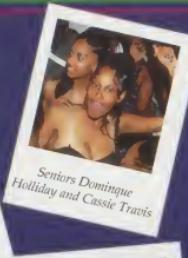
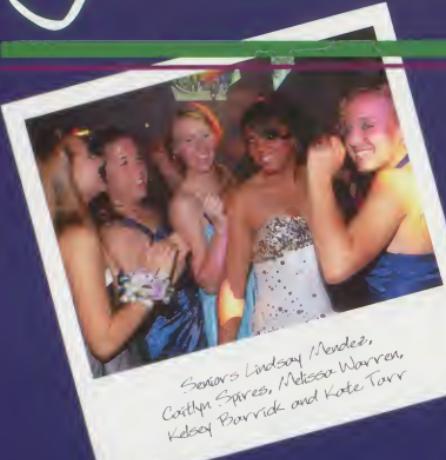
PNN

Adviser Mr. Mark Ciesielski

Front row: Melissa Kwiatkoski, Daria Arthur, Samantha Serwacki, Katie Tarr, Lorelle Johnson; Second row: Alyssa Brindley, Madison Cofield, Jessica Petalas, Korey Loudermilk, Katherine Saduraj; Back row: Peter Paskash, Tyler Roark, Jonathan Wallace, Zachary Szwinski, Matthew McLindon.



just dance.



Senior Dominique
Holliday and Cassie Travis



Dancing with Senior Josh Pecenia, Senior Danice Carbajal smiles for the camera. "Hanging with friends is what I enjoyed most about Homecoming overall," Carbajal said.



Senior Ashley Cherry
and Senior Kalvin Ford of
West Side High School



Enjoying the atmosphere of Homecoming, Junior Peter Paskash dances with Senior Lindsay Mendez. "My favorite song played at Homecoming was 'Lollipop' by Lil' Wayne," Paskash said.

moonlit masquerade.

Sparkles, masks and dancing. Homecoming 2008 was a night filled to the brim with all of them. While many attended, most arrived fashionably late. People chose to attend the Homecoming dance this year for an array of different reasons.

"The reason I went to Homecoming was to dress up and have fun with friends. I want to go to everything during my high school years," Junior Diva Lowe said.

Those students who attended Homecoming as their first high school dance seemed to have positive comments about the dance.

"I came to see the difference between Pierce and MHS dances. MHS has way more freedom," Freshmen Amanda Banashak said.

"I thought it was good. I've never been to a school dance before. I was a little nervous, but once I saw everybody dancing, I joined in. It turned out to be a fun night," Senior Melissa Warren said.

This year the theme was Moonlit Masquerade. The halls were ornamented with candelabras and decorated in purple, gold and green. The dance left a different impression on all who attended.

"I thought the dance was kind of lame because no one wore a mask. No one participated in the masquerade stuff," Junior Peter Paskash said.

"The dance this year was a lot better than when I first attended my freshman year because this year there was a lot more food and the DJ was way better," Senior Lindsay Mendez said.

As always, the dance was held in the Hall of Flags.

"A lot more people came out and seemed to care this year," Senior James Manis said.



Wearing masks, Seniors Ciera Doss and Giovanni Jenkins dance. "The music and atmosphere are what I enjoyed most about the Homecoming Dance," Doss said.

homecoming queen nominees



Senior Lindsay Mendez



Senior Danielle Wagner



Senior Ashley Woods



Senior Ashley Hite

and the crown goes to...

It's half time and students are anxious to discover who will be crowned Homecoming Queen and named Mr. Football.

After waiting, Seniors Ashley Woods and Keith Dockery take center stage.

"All the girls were beautiful. I thought they all should be able to take a piece of the crown," Woods said.

The announcement and crowning of the winner is an exciting moment for any girl.

"I was in shock. I thought they must have had the wrong person. I just wasn't expecting it to be me," Woods said.

Woods wasn't the only one who was in shock.

"I was really surprised. I didn't think I knew that many people. It's an honor because it shows you know a lot of people and you're friends with them," Senior Nominee Lindsay Mendez said.

"Ashley is so pretty. She deserved to win, but honestly every one of the girls deserved to win. They all were so pretty and so out-going," Senior Nominee Danielle Wagner said.

Mr. Football is another award bestowed on Homecoming night, honoring the most valuable senior starter on the team.

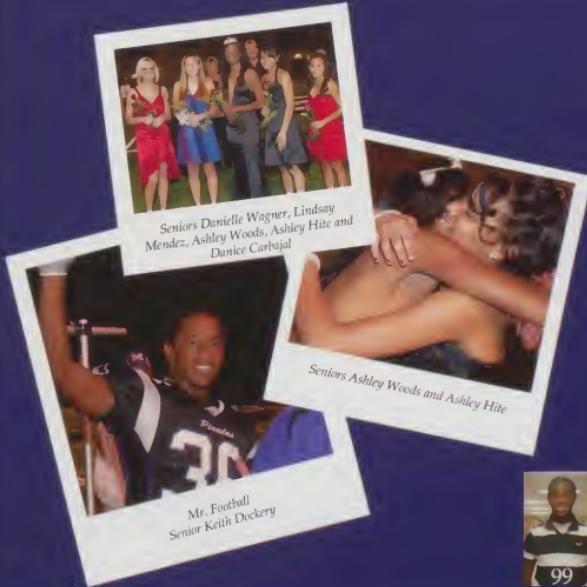
"It feels good to be named with the honor of Mr. Football because it shows that you're not only a leader on and off the field, but you also have the respect and admiration of your fellow teammates and coaches," Senior Keith Dockery said.

"I voted for Keith because he deserved it. He's a hard worker and really dedicated to the team," Senior Keith Thomas said.

"His personal record is what sets him apart from the rest of the team. His dedication and devotion to his coaches, teammates and the plays was the essential part that pushed people to vote for him," Senior quarterback Dolapo Macarthy said.



Homecoming Queen
Senior Ashley Woods



Homecoming Week.

Standing on the junior float, Junior Amber Medwetz throws candy.

"The parade was my favorite part of Homecoming Week. We put a lot of work into the float and it was nice to see it all pay off," Medwetz said. Medwetz has participated in Homecoming Week since her freshman year. "The Goofy Games was my least favorite part of Homecoming because I couldn't go," Medwetz said.



With her shades on, Senior Jasmine Woods joins Seniors Jacque'se Waters, Jasmine Jones and Markella Papamihalakis.

"The dance was the best because it was fun and all my friends were there and I like dressing up," Woods said. "I was excited and sad for Homecoming Week. I knew it was going to be my last."



From Madden Monday to the masquerade dance, Homecoming Week was filled with excitement and preparation.

For his first year, Freshman Rudy Sanchez wanted to show his Pirate pride.

"I heard from some people that if you helped with Homecoming you could get into the dance for free, but I really wasn't in for a free ride. I came out because I wanted to show my spirit and do something for the school," Sanchez said.

Many students came out to help and support the school to make Homecoming Week successful, while others supported the school by showing their Pirate pride.

Students participated by dressing for Madden Madness Monday, Twin Day Tuesday, Wacky Tacky Wednesday, Totally Far Out Thursday and Pirate Pride Friday.

In all, Homecoming Week was made possible by the student body and their dedication to organizing a fun week.

Students participated in the Homecoming Parade and Goofy Games Thursday after school.

Senior Hannelore Reynolds was excited for Homecoming Week.

"All together, the actual Goofy Games and parade were great. The seniors came together and boasted in the Goofy Games and made the float amazing. I was happy to know that the seniors won both of these, but I was really upset to know that the juniors were really close to beating us," Reynolds said.

To Reynolds, the disappointment came Friday night when Valparaiso won the game.

"The game was exciting, the crowd was ecstatic and everyone got hyped over the game. But it was very disappointing to lose to Valparaiso. They were a good team, but we were just having an off night," Reynolds said.

As game night got closer, many discovered that the student body would have the opportunity to participate in a white out. But this attempt failed to provoke student involvement.

"The white out wasn't a big success, but that was okay. A lot of people came out to support the team anyway. Although it was upsetting that we lost, it was a game we should have won," Sanchez said.

As Homecoming Week came to an end, many were upset that this was their final year, but others were looking forward to next year.

Spirit Week

"I was happy and sad when I was getting ready for Homecoming Week. I'm a senior and I knew that it was going to be my last time to do it," Senior Morgan Taylor said. Taylor and Senior Hannelore Reynolds wore Bears and Colts jerseys.

10-11-08

Madden Madness



10-12-08

Twin Day



Sporting Hollister shirts are Senior Jessica Aldridge and her boyfriend Sophomore Darren Gornick. "I was hoping that I wouldn't be the only one to dress up and not look stupid," Aldridge said.



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"Madden Monday was my favorite day of Homecoming Week. I got to wear my bright orange hoodie with that bright orange 'C' on it that everyone hates because it's so bright."

Junior Efrain Diaz said. Diaz was more focused on the Homecoming football game than the spirit of Homecoming Week.



Wearing tie-dyed shirts are Seniors Eli Vasquez and Anthony Cornelez. On the day of the parade, Vasquez said, "I got to rock my fro."



Sophomore Danny Goy



Dressed in togas, Seniors Mikayla Sandridge, Haunilore Reynolds, Caitlyn Spires and Jessica Hernandez ride the senior float in the Homecoming Parade. "I really enjoyed being apart of the float. It was something that everyone put their time and effort into," Spires said. Spires had been looking forward to Homecoming since the beginning of the year. "Homecoming week was so good. Everything seemed to go good," Spires said. During Homecoming Week Spires was determined to beat Junior Mohammad Najeb Arifee at everything.

With purple and white paint on her face, Sophomore Shaina Pullum poses with one arm flexed and one arm on her hip for Pirate Pride Day. "I love having school spirit. I like doing things that are not the ordinary," Pullum said.



Freshman Randolph Sanchez

Senior Jonathan Wallace



Purple and White Day



Dressing in purple and white, Junior Amber Scollard and Seniors Kreshnaa Major, Mua Muhammad, Brenda Roy and Mike Sandridge show school spirit. "I participated in Homecoming Week because I have a lot of school spirit. I really do love my school," Muhammad said.

10-13-08

Wacky Tacky Day



"I was sad while I was getting ready for Homecoming Week. It's my last year and the last time that I'll be a part of it," Senior Jaquese Waters said. Waters puts up the piece sign and smiles along with Sophomores Tyrone Brown and Marissa Stewart.



Tacky Day



Tacky Day

"I was anxious and excited for Homecoming Week," Senior Ava Meux said. Meux acts wacky with fellow Seniors Kanadee Greene and Rebecca Neville. "I participated in Homecoming Week because it is always nice to show some spirit," Meux said.

"60s and '70s day had to be my favorite part of Homecoming Week. I got to go through my parents' closets and pull things out and put them together," Junior Rohan Kimni Cherry said. Senior Mike Sandridge, Alyasia Burns, Vince Marquez, Jessica Aldridge and Cherry wore colorful '60s attire.

10-14-08

10-15-08

dancing the freshman and sophomore winter formal.

With senior events creating excitement throughout the year, underclassmen are often overlooked. The Freshman/Sophomore Winter Formal is one night when it's all about them.

Members of the Family Carrier and Consumer Leaders of American hosted the eighth annual Freshman/Sophomore Winter Formal this year.

"I went to the dance this year with my girlfriend. I enjoyed spending time with her and having her meet all my friends and classmates," Freshman Peter Berlingo said.

Dorian Pickett was crowned freshman princess. This year's sophomore princess was Stephanie Lobody.

"The best part of the night was sitting on the chair and being in the spotlight. It was my first high school dance, and I honestly would go to every dance from here on out," Lobody said.

Many underclassmen go to the Winter Formal to see the difference between Pierce Middle School dances and high school dances.

"The dances at the high school are so much better than at Pierce. They are after school, and more people come. I really enjoy just being around my friends and listening to music," Freshman Lisette Caberea said.

"I liked the Winter Formal a lot more than Homecoming," Caberea said, "because there were less kids and more kids my age."



Freshman Dennis Scott



Freshmen Kayla Lee and
Jasmine Washington



Freshmen Jacob Gibson and
Libby McHugh, Crown
Point High School



Freshman Kiarra Johnson
and Junior Dewayne Ware



Juniors Aubrey Cooser, Paige Wilson,
Sarah Martin, Amber Medowetz and Senior
Kirsten Kosharchik



night away.



As an MHS graduate, Amanda Rysiewicz is invited to come to the Inclusion Dance every year. "Often they will call and say, 'When's the dance?'" Mrs. Barb Dlouhy said. Attendance has increased to 70 people, including current students, alumni and students from other schools.

inclusion dance .

The Inclusion Dance comes around once a year, but the special education students spend months anticipating its arrival.

Not only do the Merrillville students attend this dance, but the faculty also invites students from Crown Point, Calumet, Hobart and River Forest High schools.

The dance has no theme, and precedes the Winter Formal for freshmen and sophomores.

Between 60 and 70 students from the different schools, including MHS alumni, attended the dance this year.

"The best part of the dance is the excitement and anticipation

from the kids," Mrs. Barb Dlouhy said.

"Months before the dance the excitement starts. They're wondering what they are going to wear and who they are going to dance with. Ms. VonBehren always does such an amazing job," Mrs. Dlouhy said.

"The dance was a lot better this year. I danced a lot, but enjoyed everything. I couldn't pick one part as the best. It was all good," Derek Williams said.

Members of Family, Career and Consumer Leaders of America have hosted the Inclusion Dance for the past 15 years.



Clapping his hands, Senior Jonathan Satkoski dances to the music at the Inclusion Dance. Satkoski is a member of the Special Olympics basketball and softball team who attends the dance every year. He said the best part for him is seeing his friends; "four dancing makes it a great night. "I'm good at it," Satkoski said.



Dana Kerscay



Dwayne Tucker and Miranda Neumann



Benjamin Banks



Timmy Fisk



Natalie Lesko



Amanda Jostyn and Terria Jamison



Raymond Fratly



Amber Garcia, Brittany Bailey and Derrien Baker



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ROTC Senior Staff

Instructors Maj. Guy Ramey and SMSGt. Dan Wrasmann
Front row: Lindsey Tobin, Latifa Robinson, Brittanie Thomas; Back row: Thomas Dalton, Zachary Edwards.



Drill Team

Instructors Maj. Guy Ramey and SMSGt. Dan Wrasmann
Front row: Ameisha Smith, Lakyla Chambers, India Taylor, Jasmin Porter; Second row: Lindsey Tobin, Eboneye Pulliam, Brittanie Thomas, Donisha Webster, Talia Constant; Back row: Jordan Thomas, Thomas Dalton, Zachary Edwards, Brandon Vlasic, Christopher Turner, Joshua Blink.



Color Guard

Instructors Maj. Guy Ramey and SMSGt. Dan Wrasmann
Front row: Brandon Vlasic, Zachary Edwards, Victor Arellano, Joshua Blink; Second row: Richard Cast, Joel Fies; Back row: Talia Constant, Christopher Turner.



Sophomore Victoria Verduzco, Freshman Rico Ayala and his girlfriend, Sophomore Arial Santiago from Senn High School, look forward to their plans from Senn High School. "It was a great time and after the after the dance. "It was a great time and after the ball, my girlfriend and I went to eat at Chili's," Ayala said.



"I was so glad I went to the ball. It was the best. I've gone since I was a sophomore," Senior Amesha Smith said. Being best friends, Senior Antonio Ross accompanied Smith to the ball. "I didn't expect it to be such a great time. It's like Prom, and the food was great," Ross said.



Graduate Luis-Joy Spencer, Senior Jonathon Cowley and Junior Lindsey Mitchell were catching up on old times. Having planned the ball, Cowley and Mitchell were happy with the turnout. "I didn't dance at all, but I helped plan the ball, and in my eyes, it was perfect," Mitchell said.



Having spent almost three hours getting ready, Senior Felicia Dudley was satisfied with her appearance. "From all the years I have come to the ball, this year was the best. It's going to be hard for anyone to top this one," Dudley said.

military ball.

The Military Ball gives Air Force Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps students a chance to let go and have some fun, while maintaining proper etiquette and decorum.

The evening at the Croation Center in early March began as the students entered the hall in a receiving line to greet their hosts. A formal dinner followed. A brief intermission allowed attendees to socialize with students at other tables and take a restroom break.

"We do not go to the bathroom during dinner because it is considered rude," Junior Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Zachary Edwards said. Edwards plans on having a career in the military.

After the intermission, the dance portion of the evening began.

"It's really fun," Senior Core Commander Colonel Thomas Dalton said. Dalton has participated in ROTC for three years.

While most aspects of the ball remained the same from previous years, a new event was added — senior recognition.

"They named [the seniors'] positions and the activities they had participated in throughout the course. It was the first

year they've done that," Junior Lieutenant Colonel Crystal Valant said. Valant, like Edwards, plans on being in the military after graduating.

Unlike other dances held during the year, attendance is mandatory for all ROTC students and it is a heavily weighted portion of their grade. Students are graded on their behavior and etiquette and the behavior and etiquette of their guests, as well as their attire.

Having only two people on the planning committee, some people might have given up. But Senior Jonathan Cowley and Junior Lindsey Mitchell said they put together a successful event.

"This year's was the best. It was more put together," Valant said.

ROTC takes learning beyond the classroom by having students volunteer around school and the community.

"It's all volunteer work on projects like adopt a highway and meals on wheels. We are guides at parent teacher conferences," Valant said.

"We help out with pretty much anything the school asks us too. It's a home away from home," Dalton added.



Jay Taylor & Freshman I Marissa Taylor



Senior Mariah Schmidt



Junior Lindsey Cowley & Alyssa Shirk



Junior Arianna Moore



Freshman Keely Washington



Graduate Nakisha Young & Senior Lindsey Tolin



Senior Latifa Robinson & Cassidy Bowdy



Dancing to the music, Seniors Antonio Ross and Latifa Robinson both agreed that the music choices were great.



"It took me a really long time getting ready, but it was all worth it," Junior Brittanie Thomas said.



Enjoying their time together, Senior Tramel Davis and Junior Aariana Moore dance the night away. "Making memories is what it's all about," Davis said.



Senior Joel Hee

from a student's perspective.
advice for underclassmen



Senior Thomas Dalton
"ROTC is more than just a class. We're a family."



Senior Domonique Love
"Don't make split second decisions that have long lasting effects."



Senior Mariah Schmidt
"Wear confidence. It always matches your outfit."



Senior Robert McKee
"It's not all just fun and games, so if you're not serious, don't join."



GRAND MARCH.

Finding the perfect dress or tux months in advance, spending hours in the hair salon, getting dressed and arriving in an outrageous limousine all go into the preparation for the Grand March.

The Grand March is a free-of-charge pre-Prom event that welcomes people all over town to see Prom attire and who will win the titles of Prom King and Queen.

Many students started preparing for this event early, while others decided to wait approximately two weeks before to make Prom a memorable night.

"I started preparing in March up until the day before, but all the hard work paid off," Junior Blair

McDaniel said.

Students voted during the week prior to Prom to choose from four male and four female nominees for Prom King and Queen.

The results were in as the Prom Court nominees gathered on the stage and Seniors Romeo Harper and Samantha Serwacki passed the crowns to Juniors Najeb Arifeen and Blair McDaniel.

"It felt good to win. I was very surprised," Arifeen said.

Words of wisdom from McDaniel to next year's Junior Prom nominee candidates: "Be positive and have a good image in the school."



"It was great having a beautiful date, especially since she let me dance with other girls," Senior Mike Sandridge said. Sandridge escorted Senior Kaitlin Fleming.

Senior Monique Cager, escorted by Robert Dyson, waits outside the Grand March to be escorted to Avalon Manor. "Prom was so much fun. It was really memorable, and I'm really happy that I went," Cager said.

Seniors Kate Tarr and Tyler Roark give smiles to the crowd taking pictures at the Grand March. "It was great spending one of the most memorable nights of high school with such a good friend. I had the most fun I've had in while, and I couldn't have asked for a better date," Roark said.

CROWNING.



"I was surprised that I was nominated, but when I won, I couldn't believe it," Junior Najeb Arife said. The other Prom King nominees congratulate Arife after he receives the crown from former Prom King Senior Romeo Harper.



As Principal Michael Krutz announces the new Prom Queen, the nominees, Juniors Daria Arthur, Blair McDaniel, Gabrielle Roberts and Kayla Williams, wait anxiously. "I was so nervous. I felt like my heart was going to pound out of my chest," Roberts said.



After crowning Junior Blair McDaniel, Senior Samantha Servack gives the newly-announced Prom Queen a hug. "I was really surprised," McDaniel said. "It was really tough. Any of the girls could've won."

Prom King and Queen



Prom King and Queen, Juniors Najeb Arife and Blair McDaniel, are escorted by their dates, Senior Kenny Allee (left) and Junior Jessica Brooks (right), as they are introduced at Avalon Manor.

NOMINEES.



Junior Blair McDaniel



Junior Kayla Williams



Junior Gabrielle Roberts



Junior Daria Arthur



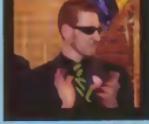
Junior Najeb Arife



Junior Anthony Napoles



Junior Juan Rioja



Junior Matthew McLindon



after-prom



Climbing the rocks at France Park in Logansport, Indiana, Seniors Anthony Lucas, Alyssa Lynn Richmond, Samantha Serwacki, Kelly Tarr and graduate Trevor Bianchi enjoy a weekend of camping. "We decided to go camping because we never went camping before, and I thought it would be fun to go with all my friends," Lucas said. During their stay, the group went hiking, canoeing and they had cookouts.

after-prom activities.

Like many other students, Sophomore Jory Cunningham and Junior Nadia Bradley went to The Cheesecake Factory in Chicago after a night full of dancing at Prom. "It was really nice. The food was good, especially the cheesecake," Cunningham said. The Cheesecake Factory was not their original plan, but it still was a nice evening for Cunningham. "I was happy we decided to go to The Cheesecake Factory instead of the Maggianos because I was not feeling Italian food. The night was just perfect, wouldn't change one thing about it," Cunningham said.



"I did absolutely nothing the day after Prom because my date got really sick," Senior Jasmine Woods said. While other students piled into cars for a day filled with laughter and memories, Woods was left all alone at home. "I regret it because all my friends came home talking about how much fun they had while I was stuck in the house," Woods said. Since Woods did not get to go out with everyone else, her day consisted of sleep, reading books and taking pictures of herself on her camera.



Compared to other students who only drove two hours for their day-after festivities, Senior Aaron Kaczmarski and his friends drove to Wisconsin. "We wanted to go all out for our senior year to make it special," Kaczmarski said. While in Wisconsin, the group stayed at the Kalahari Resort. "It was really nice. They had an indoor water park and theme park," Kaczmarski said.



Just like many other Prom attendees, Senior James Pierre Allen III and friends decided to go to Six Flags Great America in Gurnee, Illinois. "We had a lot of fun. We tried to get on as many rides as possible," Allen said. "At first I was a little nervous because the ride (The Giant Drop) makes your stomach drop fast, but it was a lot of fun," Allen said.



Instead of going to an amusement park after Prom, Seniors Aaron Curtis and Nicole Price and Juniors Priscilla Stewart and Rah-Kimmi Cherry decided to visit downtown Chicago. "The big city is a fun place to hang out and look at the nice scenery," Curtis said. Not only did they drive around looking at the scenery, but they also went shopping and out to eat. "The most memorable part of the day was watching the mechanical elevator and seeing how it works," Curtis said.

PROM.

With so many last-minute appointments and preparations, Prom can go from the most stressful beginning to the most memorable night. Junior Kayla Williams and Senior Ryan Roddy share their stories.

"I decided on changing my dress at the last minute, and with alterations, new shoes and jewelry, it came to about \$600. I also ended up waiting for a fitting room for three hours. My date ended up doing everything the day of Prom, from getting his tux to getting his hair done. We ended up having limo problems; we went through three different limo companies until we found the right one," Williams said.

"Even though I was looking forward to winning Prom Queen, my date and I ended up having a blast at Prom and in Chicago," Williams added.

"As soon as I got out of school

the day of Prom, I had to pick up my watch, rings, tux, bonnier and corsage. I also had to try on my tuxedo and make sure everything fit. I called everyone on our list for the limo to remind everyone about the time. In the process of all this, I ended up losing my watch and rings. After an hour of looking everywhere for them, I realized I had left them in the car. When I finally was able to get ready, I put my tux on and forgot where I put my cuff links on top of everything else," Roddy said.

"Four hours later, I was finally ready. My group and I met up for the limo, took pictures and headed to the Grand March and the Avalon. After Prom, we went to Chicago for dinner, and the day after, a bunch of us went to Six Flags," Roddy said.

"I would have to say the most memorable time at Prom was seeing two people wearing the same exact dress. It was definitely funny."



"Prom was great. I really had fun dancing with all my friends all night long," Senior Roy Walker said. Walker went to Prom with Senior Ashley Hite, his girlfriend.

With friends by his side, Senior Johnathan Wallace shows off his moves. "Prom was so fun this year. I truly wish the night didn't have to end," Wallace said. Wallace said Prom 2009 was everything he hoped and wished for.



Juniors Marcus Howard &
David Arthur



Junior Natalie Vartanoff &
Senior Stephen Carneillo



Senior Katherine Sataluk &
Ruthie Jordan



Senior Antonio C. Ross &
Junior Kauntice Grimes



Seniors Zachary Szwarczki &
Aaron Kaczmarski



Dancing with Senior Kaitlin Fleming, Junior Diva Lowe breaks in the dance floor with her friends. "My friends and I were so sad when Prom was over," Lowe said. After attending Prom, Lowe went out to eat at The Cheesecake Factory. "The food was so delicious," Lowe said.



Jake McDonald (Munster) &
Senior Anton Filits

Junior Tiffany Leicht &
Junior Kortney Loudermilk







get revue.

Students use music, dance and acting as a means of human expression. Performing arts require a certain amount of practice and perception. Using their experiences and emotions as inspiration, students compose or play musical pieces, choreograph dances and stage theatrical productions. For some, this becomes not just an art or academic requirement, but a way of life. "The object of art is to give life a shape."
— William Shakespeare



photo credit: Senior Rachel Pietraszak.



on that note.

Aside from preparing for competition sponsored by the Indiana State School Music Association, the orchestra also prepared for a series of concerts.

"It was long, but overall it was a very nice concert," Junior Brittni Jackson said about the Holiday concert. Jackson has been in orchestra for four years and plays the violin.

High school students were on their best behavior as they were acting as role models for the middle school students, who also played at the concert.

"Whether you like it or not, people follow you and look up to you," Jackson added.

The orchestra also traveled to Indianapolis in February to compete in the ISSMA competition. During ISSMA competitions, schools compete to earn gold, silver or bronze ratings based on their performance.

Junior Page Wilson prepared for the competition through many rehearsals to reach her goal of earning a gold medal.

"I was very nervous. I drink a lot of water and try not to freak out," Wilson said. She believes that, overall, the orchestra did very well.



Advanced Orchestra

Directors Mr. John Bradford and Mrs. Diane Kowalski

Front row: Corina Vasquez, Megan Harms, Tanya Riveron, Khari Coker, Cinthia Garcia, Alyssa Nymeyer, Nicole Tanulis; Second row: Patricia Millard, Nikko Sadur, Aubrey Cowser, Caitlyn Spines, Michelle Ross, Morgan Lamb, Evelyn Irak, Paige Wilson, Lauren Kiser, Sarah Martin; Third row: Mr. John Bradford, Sabrina Smith-Griggs, Rachel Drapeau, Chantal DeJesus, Heather Kiel, Jerica Jasso, Pauline Paney; Fourth row: Britt Jackson, Alexander Perez, Cody Niles, Angela Reynolds, Claudia Ponce, Cora Boender, Cameron Grundy, Scott Gedda, Nichole McFarland; Back row: Jonathan Curry. Not pictured: David Ortiz, Elliot Parker, Kaitlyn Sweeney.



Intermediate Orchestra

Directors Mr. John Bradford and Mrs. Diana Kowalski

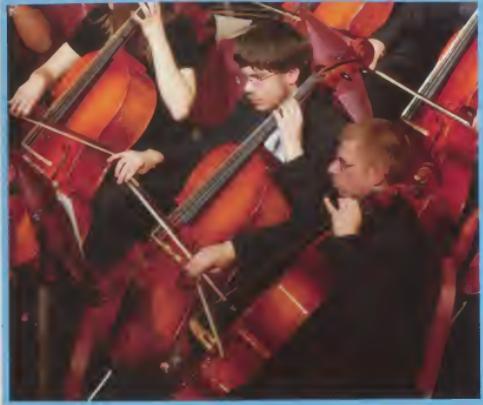
Front row: Nalleli Methane, Stephanie Hisek, Kourtney Woods, Kalilopi Haramantas, Rebekah Kimari, Aliyah Brown, Iesha Smith; Second row: Kaitlyn Kolbert, Dylan Lane, Briana Walker, Mya Mayfield, Lauren Camielo, Briana Higareda, Loreal Hill, Luis Gutierrez, Brittny Bass; Third row: Corley Laughead, Marlene Harms, Brianna DeCausemaker, Myslita Harris, Mia Patikas, Amanda Banashak, Aurielle Powell, Jeannine Cardenas, Monika Knight; Fourth row: Caleb Sanchez, Daniel Tanulis, Courtney Jones, Jasmine Washington, David Jordan, Michael Rhoades; Back row: Erin Weiss, Jose Rodriguez, Mr. John Bradford, Kalle Domikaitis. Not pictured: Tyler Scott, Lauren Blackwell, Paul Crowley, Luis Lagunas.



While looking at his music sheet, Junior Johnathan Curry plays the bass. "The best part about being in orchestra is just playing and learning new music," Curry said. Curry didn't join orchestra by choice. "My mom made me join orchestra," Curry said. He has been a part of orchestra for seven years and plans to play in college. "Yes, I'm going to do it in college. I love playing my instrument," Curry said. Curry finds orchestra to be difficult sometimes. "The worst part about being in orchestra is playing the same song over and over again if someone can't get it," Curry said.



As part of the strings section, Senior Cody Niles plays the viola. Niles' favorite song to perform is "Barber of Seville." "The best part of being in orchestra is just being able to hang out with friends," Niles said. Niles joined orchestra because he wanted to be different. "Everyone was joining band, so I wanted to be different and joined orchestra," Niles said. Niles has been in orchestra for seven years and plans to continue to do it throughout his college years with hopes that he will receive a scholarship for it.



During the Holiday concert in Reinhardt Auditorium, Senior Alexander Perez plays the cello. "I joined orchestra because I had to choose between that or band and I chose orchestra," Perez said. Perez finds the playing test to be the worst part of orchestra. Perez has been in orchestra for seven years but doesn't plan to continue with it in college. "I just don't see it in my future," Perez said.



With his baton in the air, Orchestra Director Mr. John Bradford directs the orchestra students. One of many of Bradford's students, Senior Chantal Dejesus plays the violin. "The best part of being in orchestra is just being able to learn new things and play with your friends as well," Dejesus said. "I wanted to join orchestra because it was something new and I learned to enjoy it as the years passed," Dejesus added.



With her instrument in her hands, Junior Patricia Millard plays the cello for the Holiday concert in the Reinhardt auditorium. "The best part about being in orchestra is playing music with people that you've known for about five or six years. We all get emotional and into the songs," Millard said. Millard's favorite songs to perform are "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "Fields of Gold." Millard has been in orchestra for six years and plans to be a part of it in college.





follow the beat.

Director of the WES Band has noticed increased turnout but says 60 members is the year's 80 members.

All performing bands have gone strength constitution this year.

Director Mr. Mark Danielson said he feels that the greatest changes that we have been the more challenging music and the students' increased motivation.

"My favorite part about band is all the different places we get to go and all the different shows we play," Senior Edwin Smith said.

At the South Suburban College Jazz Fest, the jazz band earned an outstanding performance plaque after participating. Edwin Smith, Charno Knysch, Antonio Garner, Jon Shlaeger and Tyvene Le Yon also earned Outstanding Soloist Awards.

Later at the Indiana State School Music Association contest at LaPorte High School, the band earned a gold medal.

This year's band has participated in a contest.

In February, Merrills Dobe, Ashley Jamerson, Tim Terry and Malcolm Graham won gold medals at the ISSMA State Solo and Ensemble Contest at North Central High School in Indianapolis. Just Hayes came home with a silver.

"They have just been awesome," Mr. Danielson said.

He said that since all the bands have performed well, he hopes to take the band next year to perform in the Chicago Thanksgiving Day Parade and win gold at district.

This year Mr. Danielson worked closely with Mr. Kevin Coffey, band director at Merydale Intermediate School, and Mr. Ian Carney, band director at Clifford Pierce Middle School.

Overall the main goal for next year is "to just continue the excellence that the students have already shown," Mr. Danielson said.

At halftime, Senior Heather Kiel joins band and the rest of the colorguard members on the football field to perform. Although Kiel was unhappy with their performances this year, she said that "we got better towards the end. It was fun."



Jazz Band

Director Mr. Mark Danielson

Front row: Cymeburleah Hayes, Taylor Carter, Gloria Graham, Sarah Dora, Cheyne Knight, Katrina Underhill, Ashley Ahlbom; Second row: Mr. Mark Danielson, Matthew Nathan, Kathleen Murphy, Jasmine Ervin, Joshua Stroh, Brandon Peden, Michael Douglas, Mark Campbell; Third row: Christopher Taylor, Edwin Smith, Ryan Roddy, Freedmon Johnson, Joseph Drapeau, Zachary Swero, Malcolm Graham, Meredith Dobe; Back row: Rashid Dika, Taylor Worrell, Terrence Yon, Rachel Drapeau, Ashley Jamerson, Kalie Domikalis.



Beginning Band

Director Mr. Mark Danielson

Front row: Cymeburleah Hayes, Taylor Carter, Cheresa Baker, Domynek Johnson; Second row: Mr. Mark Danielson, Stephanie Lobody, Ashley Ahlbom, Alyssa Ross, Andrea Reed; Third row: Joshua Riley, Freedom Johnson, Joseph Drapeau, Joseph Patton, Jasmine Ervin, Kathleen Murphy, Brandon Harris; Fourth row: Logan Hubbard, Gabrielle Bell, Myasha Brown, Tremie Morgan, Adrian Weaver, Corey Weatherspoon, Le Zaireick Bates; Back row: Daniel Lipp, Devon Williams, Tyler Shockley, Taylor Worrell, Avery Sims, John Jamerson, Kalie Domikalis.





With his french horn in hand at the 2008 Band Holiday Concert, Junior Zachary Swierc concentrates on his music. In order to prepare for the concert, Swierc had rehearsal every class. "Exploring different types of music," Swierc said, is his favorite part about band. This year he also attended the Indiana State School Music Association and received a silver rating on his solo.



Playing on the sidelines, Senior Tavon Cunningham strikes the cymbals with his mallets. He has been in band for six years. Cunningham said that he joined band because "I wanted to expand my knowledge. It's helped me to get more experienced."



To prepare for the annual Band Holiday Concert, Junior Cha'yla Eddie says that she played in class and made sure that she understood her music. Eddie has been in band for six years and said that she plans to continue playing because "it's part of my routine. I love to do it."



For the past four years, Sophomore Gloria Graham has been involved with band. Graham said that her favorite part about band is "all the friends. You build a family." This year, Graham attended the Indiana State School Music Association with her trio and they earned a bronze rating.



Marching across the field, Senior Ryan Roddy plays his trumpet at a football game during halftime. "Running around on the football field," Roddy said, is his favorite band memory from this year.



Intermediate Band

Director Mr. Mark Danielson

Front row: Eric Black, Michelle Ambrose, Malcolm Hindman, Charisma Jackson, Kelli Chappell, Danielle Douglas, Jacob Caudick, Michael Brown; Second row: Christopher Taylor, Jordan Matthey, Keisha Canane, Karla Solis, Kaitlyn Phillips, Kyle Schroeder, Marley Whittaker; Third row: Mr. Mark Danielson, Joshua Smithers, Autry Phillips, Mayra Salinas, Vince Marquez, Edwin Smith



Advanced Band

Director Mr. Mark Danielson

Front row: Gloria Graham, Sarah Dora, Samantha Bailey, Amber Medwetz, Julie Hays; Second row: Mr. Mark Danielson, Cha'yla Eddie, Chame Knight, Christine Peden, Niesha Thomas, Jasmine Woods; Third row: Dylan Tonell, Armando Miller, Lance Robinson, Joshua Stacker, Dwayne Wright; Fourth row: Meredith Dobes, Charles Mihal, Ronald McMillan, Robert Balash, Zachary Swierc, Ryan Roddy, Parry Pamahilakas; Back row: Tavon Cunningham, Lacie Derwood, Phillip Mayweather, Ashley Jameson, Matthew Nathan, Malcolm Graham, Vince Marquez, Juan Rivera.





Guided by three years of choir experience, Junior Angelica Dix performs at the Holiday Choir Concert. "I have a passion for singing. I sang around the house to get ready for our concert," Dix said. Dix participated in the ISSMA competition, earning a gold rating in the district competition and then advancing to the state competition, where she earned another gold rating.



With the Varsity Choir, Sophomore Sarah Dora performs at the holiday concert. Dora's choir class was not present for the entire concert, but did perform several numbers. For the finale of the concert, each choir class came together to perform the final song.

"I sang in choir at my church when I was younger, but I wanted to try something new," Senior Kandace Greene said. Greene and Junior Alyssa Shirk sing in the advanced choirs.



After years of private lessons, Junior Kourtney Givens performs the "Christmas Melody." "I love being in choir. You learn to become a well-rounded singer," Givens said. Givens had a solo in the song "Joyful, Joyful." She also went to Indiana State School Music Association competition.



As a participant in choir since the eighth grade, Senior Kelly Tarr performs at her last Merrillville Christmas Choir Concert. "I had a solo and I sang 'I Hope You Dance,' but my favorite number was 'Feliz Navidad,'" Tarr said.

While "putting passion into every song," Senior Rebecca Neville stands in the spotlight at the Holiday Choir Concert. Neville has been in choir since the first grade. "Music is what I love. That's why I'm going to the University of Kansas to be a music educator," Neville said.

Sophomore Payton Parker stands with confidence as he sings at the choir concert. "When it all comes together, everyone on stage, the rich sound just blows everyone away," Parker said. Parker has other plans for music in the future as he prepares for a rap career.



Influenced by an elementary school experience, Junior Melina Rivera still sings in high school. "When I joined the ambassadors in the second grade, it made me want to sing even more," Rivera said.



caroling choir.

For the first time in over 14 years, the Vocalteens and the Velveteens competed at the Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) at Perry Meridian High School in Indianapolis.

Taking 20 members with them, the Vocalteens received a gold rating with "Bridge Over Troubled Water" and the Velveteens, taking 12 members with them, received a gold rating with "Lift Thine Eyes."

Choir Director Mrs. Melinda Reinhart said she was "very, very pleased with their performances this year."

Both The Moore Ensemble and Earl Ensemble received gold ratings with "River In Judea" and "Shoheen" respectively. In addition to this, 17 soloists received gold ratings, making a total of 21 gold ratings.

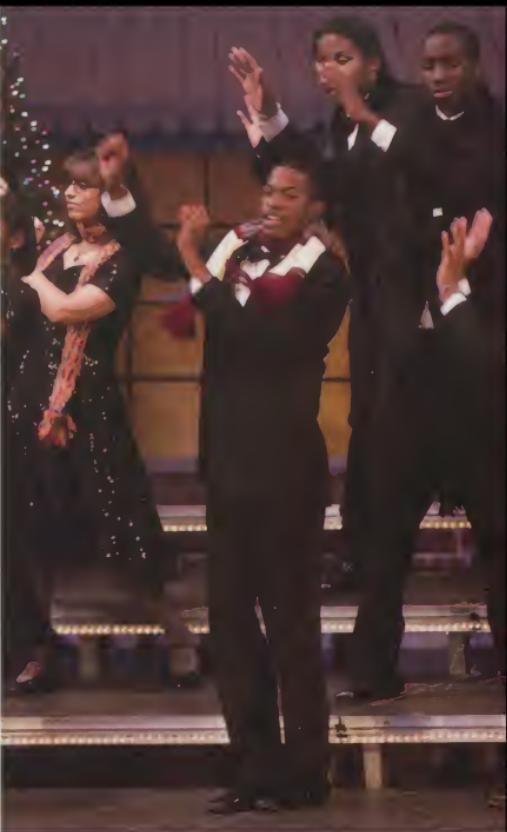
One of the soloists, Junior Melina Rivera earned a gold rating for "When I Have Sung My Songs."

"It's a lot of fun," Rivera said. Rivera plans to compete again next year.

Another soloist, Senior Kandace Greene, received a gold rating for singing "O Dildeo Meo Dolce Ardor."

Greene said that she was shocked when she discovered she had earned a gold rating, but she was very excited.

"I feel like I performed well, but there's always room for improvement," Greene said.



After preparing for eight weeks, both in and out of school, Sophomore Tyrone Brown sings at the first choir concert of the year. Brown went to Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) with an all-male ensemble and received a gold rating.



As "one of the best moments," Junior Anthony Watson performs a solo at the Christmas Choir Concert. We've worked on so much that I can't even remember what my solo was," Watson said. Watson's solo was one of many individual performances.



Sophomore Mariah Trigg stands at the center of attention at the annual choir concert. "Choir gives everybody else the opportunity to meet new people. We don't get enough credit, but I hope that changes in the future," Trigg said.



Sophomore Michael Barnett sings because of the inspiration of one of his "most valued vocalists." "Whitney Houston really inspires me because she has an amazing voice and good talent. She hasn't made a bad song yet," Barnett said.







When you cease to dream,
dreams dry up just like...





As he dances, Linus (Junior Russo) compresses his face so his security blanket. "I thought the play would be fun and different I have never been in a play before," Colleen said. "Linus is so ridiculous and goofy. The character fits what I'm trying to go with." In the scene, My Blanket and Me, Cole said, "I twisted around my blanket and how much I need it. It was our favorite scene. I got to be really goofy, funny and be dramatic with it."



Debuting "Snoopy" as Charlie has real responsibility to keep her safety dish, Snoopy (Junior Matthew Lavoie) thinks about schizophrenia. "My grandparents, mom, Stepbrother, and The Greek Club." The Greek Club was supposed to be real because he was always running around, dancing and singing. It just made it even more fun," Lavoie said.



Confessing her love for Schroeder (Senior Jonathan Wallace), Lucy (Senior Caitlin Spikes) sits on top of Schroeder's piano. While singing her song called "Schroeder" she talks about her love towards me and how much she wants to marry me. But I'm not gonna marry," Wallace said. "The Greeks are nice people. I had to go around with a survey asking everyone if I gonna marry person and other questions about me," Spikes said.

you're a good man

Charlie Brown.

From April 19 to April 25, students interpreted the proposed journey of disillusionment of the comic strip, "Peanuts" by Charles M. Schulz.

How did HHS students prepare to bring a complex drama like?

"It was really hard at first because I had to act out all the different emotions, but I had the full range of emotions," said junior Anthony Watson.

Some members used 8 different expressions by reading the play to their ways of individual expression and more.

He quickly accepted how the play is the common comedy as the main theme that the all the family-

wanted when they were younger and it helped them become better in the play," sophomore Alison often said.

Sophomore Charlie Brown was such a success, Alison suggested that other students should be asked to take stage.

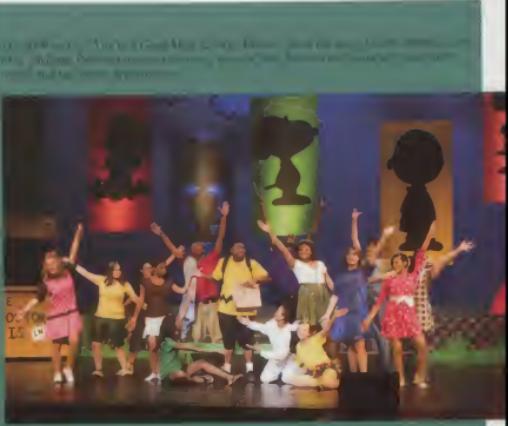
"It would be cool if we could do some type of future cartoon on the stage. I think it would be fun and exciting," sophomore Matthew Lavoie said.

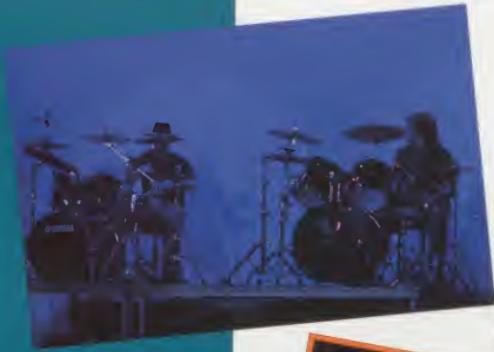
Overall the cast agreed that the play was a very unique experience, and they overall glad.

'I just let the kid inside of me come out.'
Anthony Watson

first had the opportunity





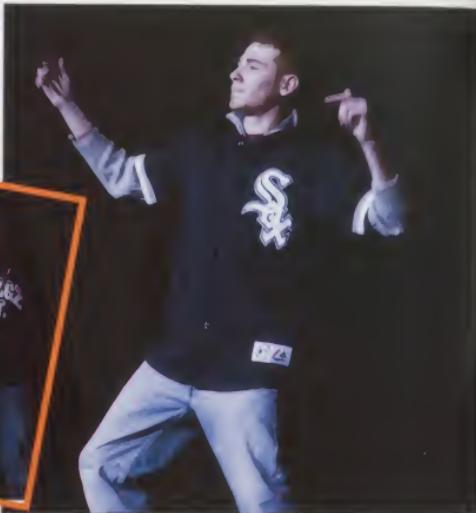


The Drama Club hosts a competition called "The Revue." This competition was hosted February 11 and

the students practiced for weeks and weeks before the night. "We started the Revue about a month ago," Verek Shea said. "The show was structured a little differently than in previous years. Instead of the same show twice, different acts were chosen for each night. The



"I've been a part of the Revue ever since my freshman year, and this was my first year hosting," Junior Matt McLindon said. McLindon co-hosted with Sophomore Kelsey Boone and Senior Andrew Grzybowski. McLindon was able to co-host after winning The Revue his sophomore year.



group that won the first night performed again on the second night, competing to see who would take home the winning title. The varsity Dance Team was the winner on the first night.

"This year we did our jazz routine because we wanted to show the school that we do not just do pom. We can do numerous other types of dances," Junior Briana Lee said. The Dance Team lost to Junior Camilia Logwood on the second night.

"I was very happy to win the competition because there were other very good performances, and I was not sure if I could pull it off, but I did," Logwood said.

Although The Revue was a great evening for some students, some were very disappointed in the crowd turnout.

"The Revue is a great show and I just wish others will come to see others perform real talent," Junior Unique Jeter said.

bleeding talent.

v u e . 2 0 0 9

bringing down the house

Lip Sync 2008



"I did it because I had to conquer my stage fright," Senior Dolapo Macarthy said. Macarthy won second place with Seniors Monica Spears, Nadia Millard and Chance Robinson. They performed the song "Single Ladies."

Using a Guitar Hero guitar, Junior Dylan Certa impersonates Elvis Presley while lip syncing "Money for Nothing" by Dire Straits. "I was not nervous. My plan was to go in there, get in, get out, hit 'em and forget 'em," Certa said. He plans to do even better at next year's Lip Sync contest.

Every year since 2005, students crowd into the auditorium for the Lip Sync contest. Students in the contest perform a choreographed dance routine to songs of their choice.

"Lip Sync gives students the opportunity to be creative and entertain their fellow classmates," Senior Tracey Walker said.

Groups hit the stage December 15, 2008, with high hopes of taking home the \$300 grand prize, but only one group achieved this goal.

"Us & Them" featuring Seniors Jacque'se Waters, Brianna Clark, Stephanie Hart, Jasmine Jones, Jasmine Woods, Rhonda McGuire, Staci Harris, Bermon

Norwood, Ronald Landrum and Markella Papamihalakis took the prize home.

"I was very pleased that we won because we worked hard and the crowd responded really well to the performance," Woods said.

Even though the other groups didn't win, many agreed with the overall verdict. "Us and Them" were really good and I was not surprised they won because they had everybody out of their seats," Senior Stephen Hart said.

Many students will remember that night for years to come, while others will prepare for the next year's show. "I hope next year's show will have more diverse songs," Sophomore Chelsea Campbell said.

While performing during the Lip Sync contest, the winners, Seniors Staci Harris, Rhonda McGuire, Jasmine Woods, Jasmine Jones, Brianna Clark and Jacque'se Waters get a standing ovation. "I couldn't believe we won," Senior Staci Harris said. "It felt great to win because I know I worked so hard," Harris added.



Lip syncing to one of their favorite Madonna songs, Senior Kerr Tarr and Junior Melissa Kwiatski hope to get the dance right for their performance. "My only regret is that I had trouble learning the dance. I learned it 10 minutes before we went on and I wish I would've practiced more," Tarr said.

"I did it to show people I have talent. I had to show that you can shine more when you do it by yourself," Junior Jamel Danzy said. Danzy performed the song, "Disturbia" by Rihanna. "I wasn't nervous at all because I've been in front of people my whole life," Danzy said.

Lip syncing the song "Get Me Bodied" by Beyoncé, the senior group of Alyasia Burns, Kearia Patterson, Ariel Parker, Jessica Aldridge and Sophomore Rachael Walton wins third place. "I just wanted to do something really big for my senior year," Burns said.



While performing the song, "Swagga Like Us," with Senior Stephen Hart, Senior Justin Bernard shows money to the crowd. "I've wanted to compete in the Lip Sync competition since my freshman year," Bernard said. Bernard said he practiced for two weeks before going on stage and that he was not nervous at all, just excited and focused. "I felt we were better than most groups. We should have at least gotten second," Bernard added.





Velveeteens

Director Mrs. Melinda Reinhart

Front row: Courtney Bargfeldt, Amesha Smith, Danniella Gregoline; Second row: Bianca Johnson, Brenda Pidgeon, Nicole Varela, Kiara Stephens-Brown; Back row: Bianca Earl, Kourtney Givens.



Vocalteens

Director Mrs. Melinda Reinhart

Front row: Payton Parker, Kelly Tarr, Tyrene Brown, Markella Papamihalakis, Kendall Bonick, Anthony Watson; Second row: Kayla Johnson, Russell Cole, Kimberly Tapper, Melina Rivera, Caitlyn Kotul, Aaron Curtis, Kristin Alvarez; Back row: Rebecca Neville, Lawrence Scroggins, Kandace Greene, Angelica Dix.



Choralteens

Director Mrs. Melinda Reinhart

Front row: Markella Papamihalakis, Kimberly Tapper, Courtney Bargfeldt, Amesha Smith, Melina Rivera, Kelly Tarr, Danniella Gregoline, Kendall Bonick; Second row: Nicole Varela, Caitlyn Kotul, Anthony Watson, Tyrene Brown, Payton Parker, Aaron Curtis, Kayla Johnson, Kiara Stephens-Brown; Third row: Angelica Dix, Rebecca Neville, Russell Cole, Lawrence Scroggins, Bianca Earl, Bianca Johnson; Back row: Brenda Pidgeon, Kourtney Givens, Kandace Greene, Kristin Alvarez.



Tremblemakers

Director Mrs. Melinda Reinhart

Front row: Raven Smith, Bryanna Pope, Ashley Welker, Charishea Leeks, Che'la McClain; Second row: Camilia Logwood, Alysa Surney, Tianna Williams, Breche White; Back row: Keshell Whisby, Treasura Sowell, Andrea Campos.



Varsity Choir

Director Mrs. Melinda Reinhart

Front row: Diamond Pullins, Kaitlin Grzybowski, Sarah Barnard, Sarah Dora, Airion Timmons, Le-Asy'a Carrington, Jazmin Jones, Sierra Collier; Second row: Octavia Dillon-Wilson, Chardonay Balkcom, Stormie Schilling, Dana Collins, Mariah Trigg, Tatiana Ruiz, Adrienne Butts, Alyson Strong; Third row: Brianna Foltinos, Daryl Toneff, Melody Harris, Whitney Knisley, Jalisa Mosley, Aaliyah Harmon, Patricia Spikes; Back row: Brooklyn Russell, Jaleesa Holmes, Spree Lang, Keyla Greene.



Concert Choir

Director Mrs. Melinda Reinhart

Front row: Rodney Trigg, Katelynn Usher, Erin Segrest, Shaunice Holbrook, Mary Williams, Charity Scollon, Victor Rios; Second row: Folahanmi Odutwaye, Megan White, Angelica Spaw, Caitlyn Anderson, Tia Rucker, Alexx Wright; Third row: Michael Barnett, Elizabeth Whelan, Eva Foley, Jasmine Thomas, Mallory Parker, Nick Stovall; Back row: Mathew Fayson, Erik White, Ryan Bishop.

choirs.





Pirate Council
Sponsor Mrs. LaPonda Morris
Front row: Brianne Clark,
Megan Harrell, Keiko
Cooley, Lakeshia Miles,
Mark Campbell II; Second
row: Ryan Roddy, Hannelore
Reynolds, Alyssa Shirk,
Lesley Richards; Back row:
Tyle Roark, Jonnathan
Wallace, Brandon Taylor; Not
Pictured: Emilia Stojova.



Media Services
Front row: Mrs. Bonnie Niksch, Mrs. Janelle Bowen, Mrs.
Mary Neylon.



Peer Helpers
Sponsor Ms. Grace Dewald
Front row: Daniella Carbajal,
Keiko Cooley, Lakeshia Miles,
Hannelore Reynolds, Ms.
Grace Dewald; Second row:
Ava Meux, Giovanni Jenkins,
Brandon Taylor, Tanisha
Miles; Back row: Ken Davis,
Rah-Kimm Cherry, Elijah
Samuels.



Media Center
Front row: Mrs. Patricia Smith, Mrs. Elizabeth Kenyon, Mrs.
Donna Phelps.



Peer Mediators
Sponsor Mrs. Veronica
Maldonado
Front row: Ava Meux, Raebyn
Harper, Mark Campbell
II, Chelsea Oyenvides, Mrs.
Veronica Maldonado; Second
row: Hannah Webster,
Shelby Newell, Brandon
Taylor, Kandace Greene;
Back row: Elijah Samuels,
Rah-Kimm Cherry.



Security
Front row: Jennifer Jenkins, Rose Pulliam, Nicole Kendrick;
Back row: Daryl Bowie Sr., Brad Best, Ron Thomas.



Night Maintenance
Front row: Mary Rhone,
Dragica Gajic, Nada Kolar,
Marcia Selakovic, Linda
Hartman, Helen Moravsky, Nisa
Milosevic, Christina
Hevertly, Vesna Mitic; Back
row: Mark Robinson, Robert
Fernando, Zoran Stefanovic.

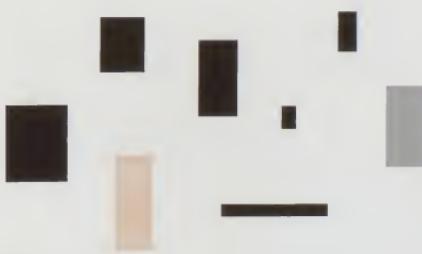


Day Maintenance
Front row: Angie Knezevic, Joy Varela;
Back row: Frank Hudak, Don Hickman,
Dean Staot.



get character.

Coming into high school, every newcomer expects the diversity of people that accompanies a large school. It's impossible to know every one of the 2218 students that attend this high school. Walking in the hallway, many students, a blur of faces, pass us by. Seldom does one of us stop and wonder who these people are. These blurred faces are the students and staff of Merrillville High School, and distinguishing individuals from the masses seems difficult. This also makes setting yourself apart from others even more challenging. "Life isn't about finding yourself. Life is about creating yourself." -George Bernard Shaw



freshmen.

Carlos Aaron
Danielle Abel
Sabrina Abrams
Ana Adame
Ashley Ahlbom
Dominic Alderson
Larry Alderson
Jamal Allen

Dion Dra Anderson
Heather Anderson
Shakir Anderson
Davina Anthony
Thomas Anthony IV
Mansoor Arifee
April Ashe
Jose Avalos

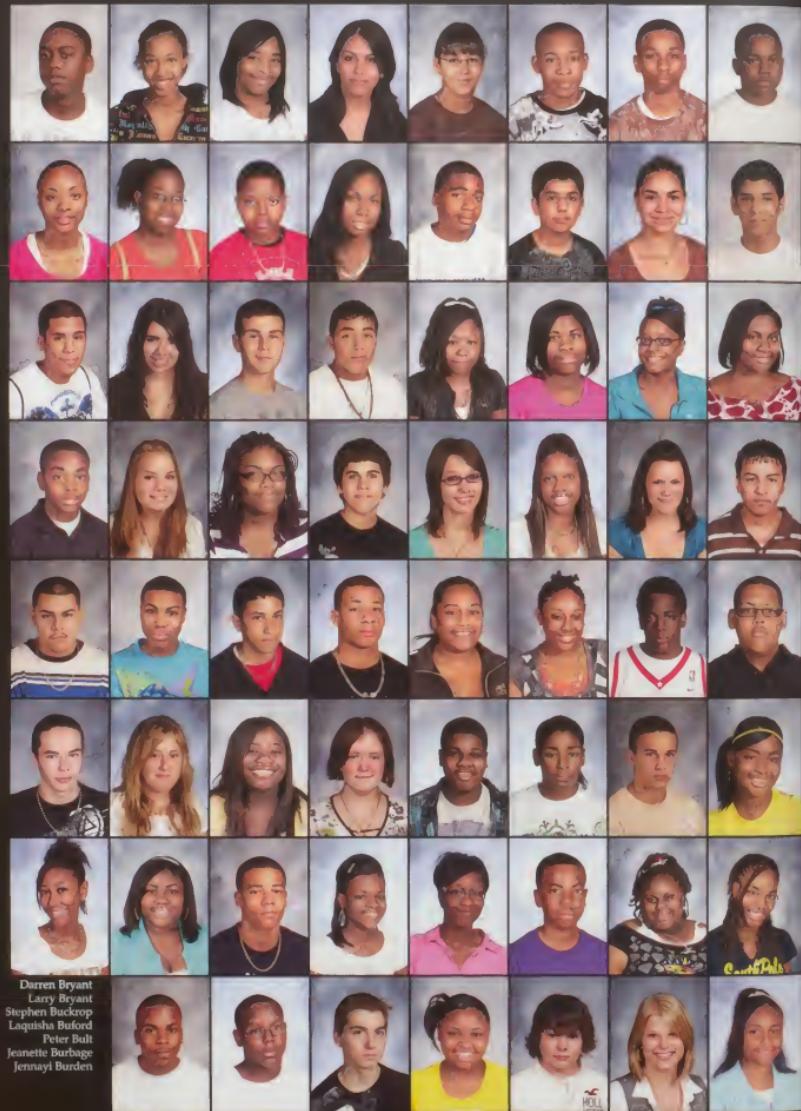
Rico Ayala
Celeste Babilonia
Nicholas Badali
Jacob Bahena
April Bailey
Chareesa Baker
Roslyn Baker
Chardonnay Balkcom

Richard Balkcom
Amanda Banashak
Tallyn Barker
Zachary Barnack
Sarah Barnard
Danae Baskin
Brittney Bass
Abel Bedolla

Arturo Bedolla
Aaron Bennett
Peter Berlanga
Kourtney Berry
Jucilla Best
Lauren Blackwell
Montea Blair
Joshua Blink

Douglas Boender
Kaleena Bretzinger
Alisha Briner
Emily Britton
Gabriel Britton
Adam Brodick
Gregory Broussard
Alisha Janee Brown

Alisha Lynn Brown
Alliyah Brown
Darrall Brown
Ericks Brown
Nia Brown
Bruce Brown Jr.
Briah Brunishoff
Allissa Bryant



Darren Bryant
Larry Bryant
Stephen Buckrop
Laquisha Buford
Lorielle Bull
Jeanette Burbage
Jennay Burden



Jordan Burton
 Adrienne Butts
 Lisette Cabrera
 Michael Cabrera
 Federico Calderon
 Rodolfo Camarena
 Mellisa Carbajal
 Jeanpierre Cardenas



Jordan Carey
 Paul Carey
 Lauren Carmello
 Le-Aysha Carrington
 Aurielle Carson
 Taylor Carter
 Joshua Cervantez
 Alotzo Charles



Rah-Sha'a Cherry
 Ontario Childs Jr.
 Habiba Choudhury
 Nakia Clark
 Kharri Coker
 Keonna Colbert
 Jerel Cole
 Kacey Cole



Samuel Coleman
 Dallas Coleman Jr.
 Sierra Collier
 Dana Collins
 Shantehra Collins
 Timothy Colomb
 Talia Constant
 Rashawn Conwell



Colin Cook
 Leah Cook
 Indya Cooke
 Larry Cooley
 Melisha Coops
 Tyler Core
 Jacqueline Coria
 Paris Courtney



DeVaughn Cox
 Dylan Crane
 Tyran Crawford
 Breanna Cudover
 Brandon Culver
 Jamie Cupid
 Anthony Curtis
 Kaitlyn Cygan



Conrad Czonyka
 Penny Czonyka
 Destiny Dalton
 Christopher Davis
 Dean Davis
 Desiree Davis
 Jalen Davis
 Verchon DeBrossard



Brianna Decausemaker
 Jose DelReil
 Sherman Dennie
 Michael Devany
 Daniel Diaz
 Megan Dickens
 Michael Dickens
 Octavia Dillon-Wilson



Anthony Disco
 Alexandra Domoros
 Olsihanna Doss
 Joseph Drapau
 Shawnae Eayton
 Attwood Duncan IV
 Holland End



Leslie Easterling
Brionna Eastland
Aaliyah Edwards
Alexis Edwards
April Edwards
Aries Edwards
Melissa Eggleston
Jasmine Ervin



Dane Ezenack
John Farmer
Michael Farmer
Jessica Felker
Gerardo Flores
Jah' Rome Fogle
Antonio Foley
Jalen Foster



Brianna Fotinos
Kyrah Frye
Nathaniel Gaines
Antoinette Galliday
Jade Galvan
Eliaco Gamino
Abraham Garcia
Antonio Garcia



Crystal Garcia
Katie Garrison
Andrea Garza
Garrett Gault
Jacob Gibson
Sean Gibson
Tiarra Glenn
Jose Gonzalez



Elbrynn Goode
Shavon Graham
Kenya Grant
Kayla Greene
Keshun Griffin
Cameron Grundy
Kaitlin Grzybowski
Edgar Guadarrama



Samuel Gubitz
Morgan Gunn
Christopher Ha
Bennett Hackett
Mont'e La Juan Ham
Victoria Hanthorn
Tia Hardy
Aaliyah Harmon



Matthew Harms
Tatiana Harrell
Brent Harris
Jason Harris
Loreal Harris
Mariah Harris
Melody Harris
Michael Harris



Mychil Harris
Mysisha Harris
Tasia Harris
Latonya Harrison
Anila Harvey
Cymberleah Hayes
Victoria Henderson
Shalondrea Henry



Isabel Hernandez
Briana Higareda
Loreal Hill
Raven Hobson
Ja'Vai Holcomb
Halley Holden
Michael Holden



Jaleesa Hofmes
Raven Hope
Shereen Hopson
Ashlan Howard
Justin Howard
Logan Hubbard
Marquis Hudson
Christopher Hughes

Benjamin Hulett
Daniel Humes
Montrel Humphrey
Marchon Hunter
William Isbell
Adel Issa
Andre Jackson
Brinasha Jackson

Derrick Jackson
Ebony Jackson
Corey Jacobs
Robin Jakich
Jacob Jara
Frank Jefferson
Daniel Jimenez
Frances Jimenez

Dominek Johnson
Freedom Johnson
Jonathan Johnson
Kiara Johnson
Paul Johnson
Troy Johnson
Darren Johnson Jr.
Sir-James Edward Joiner III

Brittany Jones
Cashedwae Jones
Edward Jones
Jacquelyn Jones
Jasmine Jones
Jasmine Jones
Michael Jones
Phashawnwy Joseph

Trey Kelly
Tyler Kepchar
Tyshawn Kidd
Jasmine King
Tyreasha Kinsey
Lauren Kiser
Monika Knight
Whitney Krisley

Jared Knox
Justin Koenemann
Nathan Koenemann
Katherine Kolbert
Morgan Lamb
Spree Lang
Jacob Larson
Jamaica Lester

Carley Laughead
Matthew Lawson
Benjamin Ledetma
Gina Lee
Jazzmine Lee
Joseph Lee
Kayla Lee
LeDurria Lee

Tiffany Lee
Jordyn Lewis
Jasmine Liggins
Malcolm Lindsay
Daniel Lipp
Maurisah Lord
Nahkayla Loveless



Anthony Luckett
Levi Lungaro
Jaylen Lynch
Sarah MacDonald
Jacob Madera
Johnnie Maflett
Samantha Mahone
Antonio Mares



Kaitlyn Marple
Byanca Marquez
Clarice Mars
Robert Marshall
Dora Martin-Ellison
Cynthia Martinez
Spencer Mason
Ashley Mares



Kylie Massie
Alejandra Mata
Natinika Mathews
Leonard Mathews II
Tiffany Maya
Jenimah McFee
Antonio McClay
Mercedes McClendon



Nakel McClinton
Brandon McCotry
Christopher McCoy
Desirika McDaniel
Brandon McDonald
Charles McGee
Sharon McGee
Kevin Meacham



Kayleen Mendoza
Bella Mercado
Tyesha Millender
Darryl Miller
Jasmyne Miller
Kristina Miller
Paige Miller
Shayeveon Miller



Mackenzie Milon
Rodney Mitchell Jr.
Christopher Monghan
Amber Moore
Sasha Morales
Tremvel Morgan
Brad Morris
Jalisa Mosley



John Mosley
Kyle Muiser
Briell Murphy
Kethlene Murphy
Raven Murray
Brandon Neal
Joyce Negron
Ezra Nelson



Kendall Nelson
Melyka Nelson
Kandice Nicholson
Michael Nickson
Amanda Noojin
Trisia Norman
John Nosich
Alyssa Nymerer



Brandon Odom
Folahanni Odutwaye
Joshua Oliver
Mary Olloqui
Sarah Onohin
Leticia Oniferos
Graciela Ortiz



Selena Otano
Donneisha Owens
Luis Ozuna
Luis Padilla
Andrea Pagan
Anthony Palm
Bridgney Palm
Pauline Panayi

Sean Panning
Mia Patikas
Leikisha Patterson
Joseph Patton
Rachel Paul
Tony Pena
Darryl Peppers
Moises Perez

David Perkins
Cartessa Peters
Chantelle Pickett
Charlene Pickett
Dorian Pickett
Benedict Pierre
Caleb Pirtle
Anthony Pitts Jr.

Andrew Porter
Ashley Powell
Aurielle Powell
Brittney Powell
Kemonté Price
Eboney Pulliam
Diamond Pullins
Crystal Quintero

Shikie Randolph
Amber Ratchif
Airus Reed
Albert Reed
Andrea Reed
D'Andre Reed
Jessica Reed
Samuel Reed

Ashley Reynolds
Michael Rhoades
Lindsey Rick
Jade Riley
Lawrence Riley
Kenneth Riley Jr.
Saul Rivera
Chazz Roberts

Keon Roberts
Zachary Roberts
Adrian Robinson
Cameron Robinson
Lo'real Robinson
Miesha Robinson
Rasheda Robinson
Tachina Robinson

Brayan Rodriguez
David Rodriguez
Javier Romero Jr.
Alyssa Ross
Tatiana Ruiz
Ashley Russell
Brooklyn Russell
Luqmann Ruth

Raven Savedra
Nikko Sardur
Yaritz Sauerz
Lexus Saez
Caleb Sanchez
Myriam Sanchez
Rudolph Sanchez IV



Zachary Sandefur
Docari Savage
Storme Schilling
Tyler Schilling
Dennis Scott
Tyler Scott
Raven Seals
Amon Seany



Edward Seay Jr.
Patrick Seneca
Adam Serwacki
Alanie Sharp
Tyler Shockey
Deborah Shoulder
Averyl Sims
Briahana Sims



Cortez Sims
Jabria Sistrunk
Amber Smith
Briana Smith
Chounice Smith
Danielle Smith
Inesha Smith
Korey Smith



Tachina Smith
Sylvester Smith III
Raven Snelling
Quanzell Snowden
Katelynn Sobieski
Brandyn Spencer
Patricia Spikes
Ian Stacks



Miranda Stewart
Nigel Stewart
Jeremy Stovall
Stevie Strom
Alyson Strong
Claudia Strong
Amanda Stuchly
Jahmnia Sutherland



Daniel Tarulls
Alexis Taylor
India Taylor
LaShawna Taylor
Shawndre Taylor
Tenniah Taylor
Dai John Thomas
Channon Thomas



Jazzyn Thomas
Jordan Thomas
Kuriedia Thomas
Brianna Thompson
Lu Tonni Thompson
Michael Thompson
Justin Tibbs
Daryl Toneff



Regina Torres
Aceda Traylor
Cornell Tucker
Anthony Turner
Christopher Turner
Mercedes Turner
Rovon Turner
Trent Turner



Brittney Upshaw
Alicia Vaulx
Brandon Vlasic
Brian Walker
Briana Walker
Chaleni Walker
Joshua Walker





Kenneth Walsh
Cartius Walters III
Morgan Walton
Dana Warren
Jaelah Washington
Jasmine Washington
Kayla Washington
Kiajuna Washington



Ray Washington
Antonio Watkins
Brittany Watkins-Thigpen
Breyon Watson
Corey Weatherspoon
Adrian Weaver
Erin Weiss
Matrice Wesley



Arianna West
De Quan West
Michael Whelan
Erik Whitehead
Paris White
Wayne Whitmer
Kent Whitt Jr.
Lenzie Wilkins



Andrew Williams
Ashley Williams
Brianna Williams
Christian Williams
Davonte Williams
Denique Williams
Ryan Williams
Alva Wilson



Danielle Winburn
Shernika Winston
Ashley Witkowski
Brandi Wolak
Floyd Woods
Kourtney Woods
Kyran Woods Jr.
Taylor Worrell



Brandon Wright
Kaylene Wright
Jennifer Yanez
Jonathan Yanez
Keith Yockey
Brandon Young
LaShonia Young



Freshmen: Dean Davis, Mansoor Afrjee, Paige Miller, Raven Hobson, Nahkayla Loveless, 8th grader Jerrean Williamson, Freshmen Rudolph Sanchez, Danielle Abel, Samantha Mahone, Andrea Reed.



Sophomores.

Taishe Abrams
Brandi Adams
Jenniyne Adams
Chelsea Adams-Combs
Aquisha Alexander
Sharita Alexander
Dontrell Allen



Tierra Allen
Michael Ambrose
Archibald Amiteau
Caitlynn Anderson
Nekaybaw Anderson
Anthony Angotti
Andrew Appleton
Roy Arambula



Victor Arellano
Daniel Armstrong
Arnold Arriaga
Alyson Austin
Javier Avilos
Imani Ayers
Elenor Babilonia
Brittany Bailey



Derek Bailey
Floyd Bailey
Summerly Bailey
Shaquelle Bailey
Malorie Baker
Samantha Balach
Taylor Ball
Benjamin Banks



Maria Barajas
Alaina Barbacel
Michael Barnett
Ariel Barnatater
Ashley Barral
Leryssa Barrera
Antonio Bates
Michelle Battle



Ajahn Batty
Keshala Beasley
Gabrielle Bell
Ana Bellman
Erin Belak
Nicole Blas
Darren Blaylock



Jordan Blocker
Joseph Blockon
Valerie Bly
Kelsie Boone
Douglas Boskamp
Lachapelle Bradley
Janay Bray
Jasmin Brooks



Rashonda Brooks
Heather Brown
Myeshia Brown
Ryan Brown
Tyrone Brown
Zerrick Brown
Osba Brownlee



Vidal Buenoero
Tanisha Buford
Clyde Byrd III
Jacob Caddick
A'Shanti Caldwell
Crystal Calhoun
Julius Cameron
Blair Campbell

Carl Campbell
Chelsea Campbell
Wilfred Campbell
Andrea Campos
Jerrick Cannon
Daniella Carabajal
Kevin Caruana
Victor Chambliss

Kelli Chvez
Blanca Clark
Brandon Clark
Jasmine Clark
La'Quon Clark
Tina Clark
Kimberly Clinck
Russell Cole II

Emanuel Conner
Rahim Conner
Nathan Cook
Jerron Cooke
Hirut Crawford-Taylor
Messay Crawford-Taylor
Breshawn Crowder
Paul Crowley

Antonio Cuahuzio
Anita Cuevas
John Cuevas
Jory Cunningham
Ariel Currie
Ronald Currie Jr.
Bethany Currie
Ka'lisha Daniel

Kyle Daniels
Kelsey Danzy
La Veda Davies
Jamie Davis
Ken Davis
Tyler Davis
Wilbert Davis III
Sterling Day

Melissa Delgado
Cyrus Dickerson Jr.
Anthony DiGangi
Rashid Dika
Nevena Djurdjevic
Meredith Dobes
Kale Domikaitis
Robert Dominick-Warren

Sarah Dora
Daniella Douglas
Darian Dowdell
Demetria Downing
Charles Downs
Jovan Dunlap
Francis Dusik
Alexis Earl

Diamond Eaton

Kortney Eaton
Ashion Edwards
Brittany Elam
Cameron Ellis
Cordney Ellis
Carlos Estrada-Barconas



Lawrence Evans
Beverly Farmer-French
Olatokunbo Fashawe
Matthew Fayson
Malisha Feagin
Nicholas Feliciano
Andre' Felton
Stephanie Ferrell



Zachary Fidler
Raven Finch
Anissa Fitzpatrick
Dimitry Flores
Matthew Flores
Salina Flores
Jonathan Floyd
Eva Foley



Phil Ford
Anthony Frederick
Charessa Freeman
Christian Frink
Robert Gabric Jr.
Amber Garcia
Joseph Garcia
Najvia Gaskin



Monte Gates
Destiny Genel
Tierra Gilbert
Ericka Gilliam
Michael Gillis
LaVonteca Gist
Brianne Givens
Rashad Givens



Eric Glover
Romele Gore
Gloria Graham
Jeremy Graham
Imari Green
Antoine Gregory Jr.
Andrew Gresham
Jasmine Griffin



Tierra Grubbs
Briana Hackett
K'avin Hagan
Faith Hairston
Brandon Hall
Brittany Hall
Sean Hall
Joshua Hammonds



Tara Hannah
Kalliope Hammann
Brett Harley Jr.
Clinton Hammann III
Sydney Harold
Keswyn Harper
Brandon Harris
Dijah Harris



Tyler Harris
Maurice Harris Jr.
Dylan Harrison
Vanessa Harwood
Lavante Hawkins
Philip Hays
Killa Henderson
Lakara Hendricks



Kevin Henry II
Samantha Herl
Shelby Hicks
Chandler Hill
Malcolm Hindmon
Tony Hines
Joshua Hogan



Shaunice Holbrook
Darius Holland
Courtney Hollingsworth
Mitchell Holman
Angela Hopkins
Azari Hopson
Tyley Houser
Dean Hughes

Christopher Huley
Al'Jaii Humbert
Stephanie Husiek
Aaron Hutchinson
Mofoluhwaso Ibikunle-Salam
Ericiona Jackson
Jamaal Jackson
Arthur Jacobs

Ashley Jameson
Alyssa James
Kara James
Rennita James
Taylor James
Angelique Jernigan
Marcus Jernigan
Aaron Johnson

Amanda Johnson
Chantel Johnson
Cordney Johnson
Kina Johnson
Michael Johnson
Shikyah Johnson
Tyree Johnson
Michael Joiner Jr.

Brea Jones
Jacob Jones
Jeremiah Jones
Joseph Jones
Jurrue Jones
Kyle Jones
Laron Jones
Glenn Jones Jr.

David Jordan
Jalen Joshua
Andrew Kapitan
Eleni Kazonis
Maurice Kelly Jr.
Clay Kendera
Reginald Kenebrew Jr.
Katherine Keeler

Anthony Kidd
Rebekkah Kimani
Marvin Kimbrough
Andrew King
Anthony King
Darien King
Abigail Kirkpatrick
Christopher Knight

Kameron Knight
Sara Koeppl
Jacob Kopf
Michael Koulianos
Michael Kriazan
Candice Lambert
Lauren Lambert
Eric Lara

Angela Ledesma
Li-Tasha Lee
Shakiah Lee
Charlissene Leeks
Jeric Lloyd
Stephanie Lobody
Ashley Lofton



Jelani Louis
Lenny Love
Jessica Lowery
Alexander Lutz
Christopher Mabone
Tamara Macklin
Brittani Madison
Melanie Manning



Antawon Marshall Jr.
Kendrell Martin
Morgan Martin
Nikkisha Martin
Julian Martinez
Jordan Martinez
Alexander Matthews
Jordan Matthias
Reaunna Maxie



Rodrick May
Mya Mayfield
Bradley Mayo
Che' La McLain
Ariana McDaniel
Nichole McFarland
Monique McMillan
Markell McMurray



Dayanna' Medcate
Osvaldo Meza
Heather Milah
Marina Millus
Stephanie Miller
Brandon Molnar
Devon Moore
Latoya Moore



Irving Moreno
Tiara Morris
Marchon Moss
Kenjro Nangin
Matthew Neal
Viviana Nevez
Joshua Nevins-Frey
Shelby Newell



Alexandria Norton
Yamine Norwood
Marissa Novak
Nathaniel O'Neal
Bruce Oliver
Kewon Ollie
James Ooms Jr.
Serena Ornelas



Morgan Orosz
Melany Ortiz
Cydnee Parker
Mallory Parker
Marcha Parker
Payton Parker
Cody Parkhurst
Rutkumar Patel



Taylor Pearson
Ashley Perez
Caleb Perry
Danielle Perry
Joshua Perry
Michal Perry
Autry Phillips
Kaitlyn Phillips



Tatiyana Phillips
Denzel Pierce
Gabriel Pineda
Rosalind Pittle
Demetria Plainer
Natasha Poehlitz
Daniel Policicchio



Gabriela Fonce
Bryanna Pope
Jasmin Porter
Jenice Porter
Bianca Portis
Marish Portis
Andrew Posey
Christopher Powell

Deion Powell
Ashayna Price
Shaina Pullum
Bre'Ana Pulpus
Evangelos Quanstrom
Alex Quijano
Juan Ramos Jr.
Zachary Raspovich

Lisa Reaves
Anton Redmon Jr.
Jasmine Reed
Kyle Reed
Alyssa Reyes
Jesus Reyes
Mellysa Reyes
Angela Reynolds

Cathlena Reynoso
Arthur Richards
Mariyah Richardson
Christian Rios
Victor Rios
Tanya Riverton
Jacquie Roberts
Antonio Robinson

Arid Robinson
Charles Robinson
Ja'Quice Robinson
Jasmine Robinson
Robert Robinson
Reginald Robinson Jr.
Rebekah Rochefort
DJahnuba Roddy

Erika Rodriguez
Jose Rodriguez
Denissa Rogers-Giles
Audrey Rojas
Kalan Rollins
Andre' Ross
Jill Ross
Skylar Rothgeb

Jurien Rose
Courtney Royster
Tim Rueter
Xavier Ruiz
Bryana Russ
Lizra Russell
Kelsey Sajdera
Obdulia Salazar

Lindsay Sanchez
Atallah Sanders
Evan Sandifer
Matthew Sondger
Zachary Schauer
Kyle Schroeder
Nicholas Schuett
Charity Scollon

Angela Scott
Deanna Scott
Adrienne Scott-Harris
Erin Segrest
Alejandro Serrano
David Serrato
Denzel Shaw



Brandon Shea
Stacey Shotwell
Joshua Shoulder
Jillian Simmons
Arlen Sims
Joshua Sims
Maximillian Skinner



Matthew Smiley
Adriana Smith
Brandon Smith
Cameron M. Smith
Cameron D. Smith
Charles Smith
Darrus Smith
Erantzus Skinner



Raven Smith
Richard Smith
Taylor Smith
Victoria Smith
Jordan Smithee
Cheryl Snoot
Raymond Snelling Jr.
Donald Snields



Angelica Spaw
Amber Spear
Robert Spear III
Bianca Stewart
Marissa Stewart
Christopher Stojanovski
Ryan Strick
Jason Strimbu



Kyle Strom
Damon Strong
Melanie Stubbs
Jasmine Suggs
Stephanie Sullivan
Alysha Surney
Kaitlyn Sweeney
Ana Tafoya



Brett Talton
Joshua Tanner
Kimberly Tapper
Exxon Taylor
Jose Taylor
Terry Taylor
Derek Taylor Jr.
Michael Thieling



Damon Thomas
Raymond Thomas
Vladimir Thomas
Anisha Thompson
Taylor Thomley
Brittany Thurson
Devyn Tillotson
Airion Timmons



Marcene Tirado
Charles Tomaszewski
Samantha Tomb
Joshua Toth
Leon Trajkowski
Mariah Trigg
Rodney Trigg



Richard Trotter
Angela Tucker
James Tucker Jr.
Matthew Tuohy
Makita Turner
Mariah Turner
Rodney Turner Jr.



Avery Ursery
Branden Urzuquia
Bryan Urzuquia
Katelynn Usher
Erica Valladares
Allison Varela
Rafael Vasquez
Corina Vasquez

Victoria Verdugo
Ronae Vicknerstaff
Jeremy Villarreal
Deshjue Walker
Kara Walker
Rachel Walton
Michael Ward
Roben Ward

Shy Ward
Brittany Ware
Dakin Warfield
Natalie Warren
Kelsey Washburn
Kentrell Washington
Donisha Webster
Jessica Weis

Elizabeth Weiss
Ashley Weller
Maurika Wesley
Carishia Wheatley
Elizabeth Whelan
Kenshley Whisby
Brechey White
Alexis Wiggins

Kyla Wiggins
Lorien Wilkins
Bryce Williams
Devion Williams
Fantasia Williams
Mary Williams
Te'Kia Williams
Tiana Williams

Kendrick Williams Jr.
Robin Williamson
Dallas Wilson
Lunden Wise
Rachel Withers
Creonna Woodson
Alex Wright
DeVante' Wright

Iresha Wright
James Wright
Kenneth Wright
Jasmine Yarbro
April Yates
Kaitlyn Yockey
Hope Yocum
Terrence Yon

Jennifer Zawada
Patricia Zimmerman



Sophomores Creonna Woodson, Ken Davis, Ariana McDaniel, Dan Armstrong, Tanya Riveron, Alyson Austin, Alexandria Norton, Adrienne Scott-Harris, Attallah Sanders.



juniors.

Brian Acosta
 Christina Adams
 Debbie Adams
 Alexis Alamillo
 Melanie Alcala
 Vanessa Aldaz
 Stephen Alexander
 Mohsen Alghami



Alexawdria Allen
 Britney Allen
 Gina Almaraz
 Jason Alvarez
 Allen Amiotelau
 Marisa Anderson
 Alexander Andino
 Edgar Arias



Najeb Arifos
 Lyndon Armstrong, Jr.
 Daria Arthur
 Valenti Attas
 Juan Ayala
 Steven Bailey
 Amber Balz
 Robert Balash



Kathleen Baran
 Walter Barcenas
 Shane Barksdale
 Robert Barrat
 Ciana Bartee
 Olujuwan Bates
 Joshua Belko
 Jaylen Bentley



AERO

Faxton Berlanga
 Eric Black
 Hillard Black
 Angel Blakemore
 Tara Bland
 Kevon Bowen
 Darnell Bowman
 Kyle Boyd



Brandon Brack
 Naudia Bradley
 Joseph Brignoni
 Nicolle Brindley
 James Brodie
 Kayara Brookins
 Jessica Brooks
 Rukiya Brooks



Tanesha Brooks
 Michael Brown
 Monty Brown
 Tamera Brown
 Collin Burke
 Daniel Burns
 Devon Burton
 Jazzmine Butler



Tiyari Butler
 Peter Butler Jr.
 Ku Juan Byrd
 Julissa Cabrera
 Kunesha Caldwell
 Asia Calhoun
 Justin Cannon





Augusta Carnegie
Nathan Carter
Nathaniel Carter
Brittney Castelli
Michelle Cavazos
Dylan Certa
Meghan Cervantes
Lakiya Chambers



Rah-Kim Cherry
Akeebah Clark
Christopher Clark
Asia Clayton
Kimberly Coates
Arlena Cobb
Madison Coffield



Brianna Collins
Kenneth Comer
Alesxis Connelle
Janell Contreras
Shyreneon Conwell
Keiko Cooley
Aubrey Cowser
Steven Crague



Louis Craig
Shauna Creel
Ariel Crosby
David Cross
Marcia Cruz
Jasmine Cummings
Jonathon Curry
Jamel Danzy



Stephan Danzy
Byronna Davis
Renada Davis
Timothy Davis
Jeremy Dejean
Dhamma DeLeon
Eduardo DeLuna
Mariah Dennis



Lucie Donwood
Zachary DalRolf
Efrain Diaz
Julia Dickens
Andrena' Dicks
Angelica Dix
Angela Dominiack
Janika Donald



Elizabeth Dooley
Vincent Dorsey
Parker Douglas
Ashley Douglass
Rachel Drapeau
Danielle Duke
Henry Dunlap
Deborah Dusik



Christian Echols
Cha'yna Eddie
Mahogany Edmond
Zachary Edwards
Marques Elliott
Michael Enghofer
Alexis Epting
Kaitlyn Farmer



Richard Farr
Michael Faison
Charlotte Feagin
Kirsten Feigin
Andrew Ferrell
Byron Ferrell
Ashley Finch



Brandon Fleming
Angela Flores
Jacob Flores
Martin Flores
Michael Flores
Brittany Flowers
Endda Ford
Zachary Forsell



Ashley French
Ian Fultz
Alexander Gacy
Joshua Galnes
Richard Galinis
Catherine Gaminio
Arturo Garcia
Cynthia Garcia



Jesus Gordis
Amon Garner-Poston
Elizabeth Garza
Shakyla Gatewood
Darrel Gearon
Jarmal Gearon
Tramel Gearon
Scott Gedda



Heather Geeze
Any Gibson
Maurice Gillespie
Kourtney Givens
William Goffin
Myron Gonzales
Perry Gordon IV
Malcolm Graham



Keyanah Grant
Dominique Gray
Nicholas Greene
Jeffery Greer
Dantella Gregoline
Cierra Griggs
Jazzmyne Griggs
Daniel Gronli



Darren Grubbs
Emmanuel Gullett
Luis Gutierrez
Steven Guzek
Robert Hammond II
Shanice Hampton
Zackary Hanbury
Jonathan Harmon



Harlene Haro
Corl Harris
Tara Harrison
Nathanael Harvey
Lynda Hawkins
Julie Hays
Erica Henry



Angelica Hernandez
Juan Hernandez
Caitlyn Hill
Ryan Hill
Taylor Hill
Michael Hollingsworth
Dexter Hoskins III
Briana Howard



Marcus Howard
Ebony Huff
Kamyah Hughes
Derrick Hutton-Kinsey
Brittni Jackson
Machelle Jackson
Sarah Jackson





Shapree Jackson
Ronald Jackson III
Mark Jakubowicz
Jericca Jasso
Unique Jeter
Brandon Johnson
Chaneice Johnson
Giovanni Johnson



Kayla Johnson
Stephen Johnson
Gwendolyn Joiner
Janella Joiner
George Jolly
Courtney Jones
LaSheena Jones
Carolina Juarez



Tina Kozmaricki
Zakiyah Karim
Laura Kennedy
Benjamin Kepchar
Andrew Karras
Brittney Kidd
Kari Kiel
Dominique Kimbrough



Melony Klasy
Allison Kish
Charne Knight
Justin Koarige
Jaime Koeppli
Emily Kurczynski
Samantha Kwell
Melissa Kwiatkoski



Jermaine Lafayette
Jermale Lafayette
Luis Lagunas
Landau Lang
Pauline Lardden
Jillian Larson
LaTara Lawrence
Alexander Lawrosky



William Laws
Briana Lee
Christian Lee
Jordan Lee
Shalyn Lee
Timothy Leicht
Nikkei Lewis
Sean Lewis



Camilia Longwood
Yakes, Lomax
Korey Loudermilk
Diva Lowe
Anthony Lupold
Devonte Malbon
Kimberly Macklin
Adonis Madry



Hector Magallanes
Theofilos Makarounas
Ryan Malone
Jasmine Marsh
Dominique Marshall
D'andre Marteen
Demetri Martin
Sarah Martin



Antonia Martinez
Francis Martinovic
Kevin McAllister
Sarah Mason
Jasmine Messengill
Konstantinos Metzaris
Phillip Mayweathers



Bryce McCurdy
Blair McDaniel
Brandan McDonald
Megan McGill
Kieran McKibben
Kyrenna McLendon
Matthew McLindon
Ronald McMillian



Michael McNeill
Amber Medweitz
Rachel Mendez
Ashley Merriweather
Sara Mercado
Latoy Merrivether
Brittany Mickey
Dionra Milenkovski



Lakesha Miles
Mirsalov Miltu
Patricia Millard
Armando Miller
Luke Miller
Anthony Miranda
Tracie Mitchel
Cameron Mitchell



Jacquel Mitchell
Lindsey Mitchell
Nu Shell Mitchell
Naithan Mizanin
Nicolas Mojica
Aariana Moore
Leslie Morgan
Ryan Morgan



Demetrius Morris
Lun-Yee Morris
Nashawndal Morris
Devantay Mosby
Devin Mottey
Suhail Muafarreh
Kyle Munchenburg
Joaquin Muro



Samantha Murphy
Anthony Naples
Nekoh Newman
Stacy Neyhart
Victor Nzeata
Kaitlin O'Reilly
Dana Olinger
Kirstyn Oliver



Louis Oliver IV
Carlos Ortega
Jasmine Ortiz
Javier Ortiz
Chelsea Ovryrides
Parry Papamihalakis
Kyle Papp
Elliott Parker

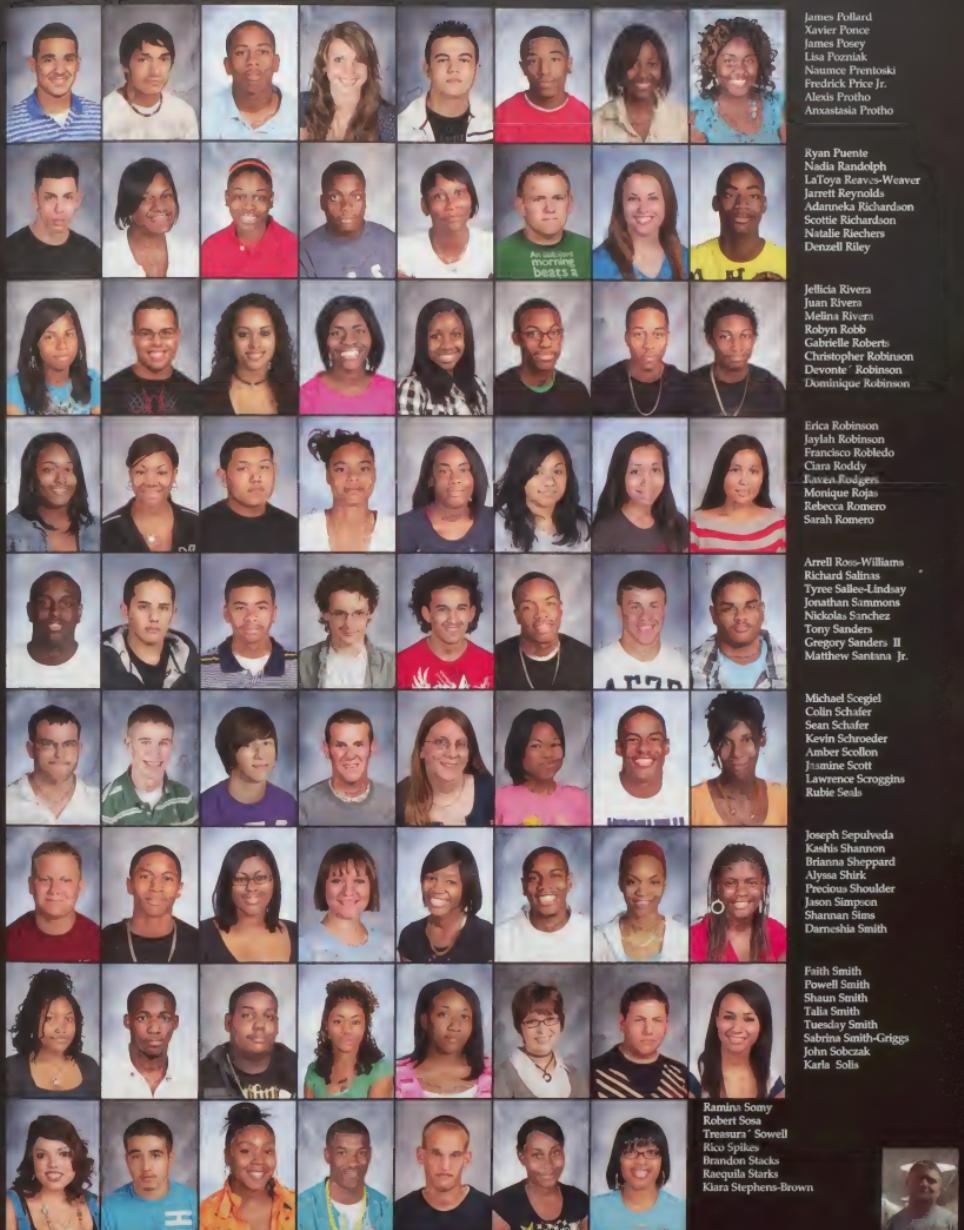


Veronique Parker
Peter Paskash
Ajay Patel
Kayla Patterson
Shamere Patterson
Mai Anais Patton
Christian Pena
Jacqueline Pena



Andres Perez
Michael Perkins
Tiffany Peters
Rachael Phelps
Kevin Phillips
Brenda Pidgeon
Courtney Pitts





Kaitlynn Sterkowitz
Darius Stevens
Zachary Stevens
Andrea Stevenson
Deonta Stewart
James Stewart
Priscilla Stewart
Kymenisha Stokes



Kenneth Stone
Nicholas Stovall
Brittanie Studravant
Megan Sturgeon
Zachary Sturm
Sylvia Suggs
Tashera Sullivan
Shanique Sweet



Zachary Swierc
Kenneth Talley
Calvin Tansil
Leslie Tapia
Nicole Tarulis
Sanchez Tate Jr.
Alexandria Taylor
Christopher Taylor



Dawnearsha Taylor
Jasmine Taylor
Terrell Taylor
Adolph Taylor Jr.
Cwon Terrell
Lesley Tharpe
Boshante Thomas
Brittanie Thomas



Jamol Thomas
Montrell Thomas
Jessica Tice
Amber Todd
Jacob Tokarczyk
Dylan Tonieff
Alaina Torres
Danny Torres



Nicholas Townes
Kathleen Towny
Frank Traina
Steven Trajkovski
James Travis
Jovan Trenoski
Samuel Troutman
Crystal Valant



Frankie Valdivia
Angelica Vara
Nicole Varela
Natalie Vartanoff
JeQuawn Velez
Liquanda Verner
Nicholas Vlanko
Jasmine Wade



Brionna Walker
Cardell Walker
Donald Walker
Amber Wails
Ferry Ward
Frederick Ward Jr.
Dewayne Ware
Julian Washington



Anthony Watson Jr.
Brandon Watts
Zacharie Wells
Jenny Wengel
Joseph White
Miranda White
Marley Whittaker





Joseph Wiekierak
Kelly Wiggins II
Andre Wilkerson
Jazlen Wilkerson
Jacob Williams
Kayla Williams
Tanae Williams
Cameron Williamson



Whitney Williamson
Andrew Wilson
Christopher Wilson
Paige Wilson
Shannon Wood
Christian Woodberry
David Wright III
Logan Wright-Reich



Rodney Yarbro III
Iyuan Yarbrought
Theresa Yugo
Elizabeth Zawada
Chester Ziemniak

camera shy students

juniors

DeAnna Abel
Joshua Addison
Ramiro Aguilar II
Michael Andronovski
Martin Arriaga
Jonathan Bandy
Jasmine Barfield
Janita Beavers
Avianna Bell
Amanda Bielak
Joseph Bond
Meco Bradley
Ashley Bride
Anderson Broaden III
Deandrea Brown
Micah Brown
Patsy Bryant
Aryyyana Buchanan
Mark Buckman
Lince Burns
Crystal Calhoun
Krista Canall
Kristina Carter
Christopher Charles-
ton

Trevelle Clerk
Jacques Colman
Andrew Craig
Reinaldo Cruz
Brittany Davis
Chad Denny
Ivan Dimitrovski
Steven Edmond
Donwell Edwards
Frederick Elston
Briana Evans
Shantelai "Gilliam
Zachary Graham
Eric Gray
Justin Hadarich
Martel Hall
Marcel Hardin

Jasmine Harris
Tevan Hartfield
Fabian Herrera
Asia Hill
Ashley Hill
Chance Hughes II
Angel Hyche
Ryan Jenkins
Peter Jideonwo
Kym Johnson
Wanisha Joseph
Palafu Kaluf
Dominique Key
Janessa Kline
John Kopf
Elizabeth Lamb
Dennis Lawson
Antwan Leschinsky
Michael Liggins
Kochill Logan
Brea Major
Cameron Mars
Johnny McClendon III
Frederick Milledge
Brianne Miller
Brittian Mitchell
Bry'Anna Mitchell
Anthony Moore Jr.
Mari Moore
Shaquan Moore
Marvalia Morgan
Patrick Morgan
Jade Morris
Kaprelle Norvell
Taneisha Oliver
Stacy Ozuna
Kimberly Parish
Raj Patel
Allasha Patterson
Aaron Peacock Jr.
Boyz Pejska
Kevin Perz
Xavier Pippins
Misty Pratt
Auber Pruet
Ebony Reed
John "vo" Reed
Michael Rivera
Devonte' Robinson
Jasyn Robinson
Eric Rollins-Williams
Jaime Rouse
Tristin Russell
Tyree Salle-Lindsay
Troy Sams
Shane Schauer
Hassan Schwarz
Terry Simpson
Alexis Smith
Eric Smith Jr.
Michael Smith
Equala Starns
Matthew Steele
Raeanitha Stewart
Johny Styron
Anthony Sutton
Ra'Shawn Swain
Marquis Syas
T' Neshia Temmer
Gabrielle Thomas
Dirsitee Trevino
Brenda Veltre
John Vine
Brandon Wallace
Lana Ward
Ashley Williams
Lawrence Williams
Terrell Williams
Brionne Witherstones
Casey Woodword
Ryann Woods
Chauncey Wray
Kassandra Yockey
Catherine Zurawicz

sophomores

| | | |
|----------|---------------------|---------------------|
| ins | Jonathan Abel | Katie McCumber |
| itt | Sierra Alexander | Michael McCarthy |
| | Luis Alvarez | De'layne McKinney |
| eed | Amondo Armand | Ashley McKissack |
| era | Joshua Babitt | Jonathan McPeak Jr. |
| robinson | Jeremy Bassett | Olaekeme Meadows |
| | Le Zairenck Bates | Randall Mills |
| Williams | Briana Bedford | Christine Miley |
| Lindsay | Rory blink | William Minard |
| | Ja'Quan Britton | Janet Modragovic |
| | Chambria Brown | Gabriel Montemayor |
| | Paris Brown | Eric Muhammad |
| | Morris Burdette Jr. | Malik Muhammad |
| | Jessica Burton | Robert Nagy |
| | Cierra Calloway | Lea Neiligan |
| | Shaquelle Cauly | Jeffery Powell |
| | Javae Clayton | Juan Preciado |
| | Maria Correa | Reymundo Reyes |
| | Michael Cotto | Melissa Rivera |
| | Brittany Cox | Rachel Robertson |
| | Meghan Davis | Adrian Robinson |
| | Tenisha Duncan | Anthony Rodriguez |
| | Anadya Edmond | Jacob Roth |
| | Anthony Elmore | Henry Sanchez |
| | Schinova Elston Jr. | Leonel Satey |
| | Cheyenne Ewing | Sean Schmitt |
| | Devonte' Farris | Donald Shields III |
| | Adam Fayson | Rashayshaun Simpson |
| | Iris Franklin | Maurice Smith |
| | Ramon Garcia | Jeremiah Steggall |
| | Bruce Gonzalez | Shakeelah Strong |
| | Darien Gornick | Areall Terry |
| | Timothy Grayson | Terry Jerry |
| | Dominique Harris | Diamond Toms |
| | Ja'shawn Harris | Justine Upchurch |
| | Richard Hendrikson | Jothua Upshaw |
| | Joshua Holdren | Taylor Vogwill |
| | Tyler House | Hannah Webster |
| | Alisia Jenkins | Aaron Williams |
| | Mervil Johnson | Anthony Williams |
| | Clement Jones | Angela Williams |
| | Lamont Jones | Valencia Williams |
| | Melanie Jones | Jada Wilson |
| | Mathew Kaiser | Nicholas Wlodarski |
| | Isalah Lee | Timothy Wolfe |
| | Anna Leventis | Adriena Wright |
| | Ashley Lewis | Aquilla Young |
| | Kody Lively | Dayna Young |
| | Bradley Martinez | |

freshmen

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Dominic Alderson | Shantell Lyons |
| Shyaka Anderson | Terran Magee |
| Dominique Bailey | Christopher Manning |
| Aaron Barnes | Stephanie Marshall |
| Kalla Barnes | Lennard Matthews II |
| Jacqueline Basaldúa | Jasmine McCoy |
| Swansi Bates | Tony Miller |
| Elias Bentzé | Jasmine Moore |
| Montae Blair | David Morgan Jr. |
| Xavier Bonds | Michael Nagy |
| Patrick Borden | Felicia Nelson |
| Bruce Brown Jr. | Stephen Nixon |
| Monica Bundlesman | Jamie Oliver |
| Ayana Butler | Tori Parkhurst |
| Ilyana Butler | Robert Parson |
| Daria Cafrey | Seneca Patrick |
| Jennifer Calhoun | Chalezeine Perkins |
| Javon Clark | Alyssa Renee |
| Jeremy Collins | Curteisha Peters |
| Anthony Cooper | Jordan Polk |
| John Davis | Jacquie Powell |
| Leah Davis | Destiny Quintiriki |
| Denice Davis | Essence Reed |
| Adore Denn | Dominic Rodriguez |
| Vanesse DelReal | Kindall Rollins |
| Javae Diaz | Frank Ruiz |
| Melvin Dickinson Jr. | Rudolph Sanchez IV |
| Giovanna Doss | Nicholas Schefter |
| Norman Eskew | Sylvester Smith III |
| Farrelle Felker | Jasmine Smith |
| Britley Forrester | Rodger Smith Jr. |
| Dylan Galloozis | Jordan Sneed |
| Jordan Gates | Sharnee Stingley |
| Jeffery Gough | Channon Thomas II |
| Harsh Goyal | Matthew Thurman |
| Diamond Gunn | Jesene Torres |
| Cortie Gutierrez | Griselda Vengas |
| Nate Hardin | Amber Wagner |
| Sean Harris | Cydence Wallace |
| Kassidi Harris-Kendrick | Brittany Watkins-Thigpen |
| Jarielle Hemphill | Carri Williams |
| Bailee Henderson | Devanta' Wilson |
| Syntekhia Hopkins | Korrenn Woods |
| Cody Huchton | Tatiana Woudar |
| Ashleyne Hunt | Rachel Wright |
| Daren Johnson Jr. | Talihah Wright |
| Jaremesh King | David Zimmerman |
| Jareyah Lella | |



Faculty & staff.

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | | | | | | | |
| Cheryl Albers Guidance | Julie Althouse Special Education | Janet Anderson Art | Joseph Atria Science | Cheryl Austin Student Teacher | Michelle Barker Science | Amber Baron Social Studies | Rachel Bateman English |
| | | | | | | | |
| Amy Beckham Athletic Director | Carrie Bedwell English | Robert Bedwell Social Studies | Mary Bertram World Languages | Brad Best Security Director | Radmila Bicanin Special Education | Jeremy Bilka Math | Wade Boise Math |
| | | | | | | | |
| Janelle Bowen Media Services | Brandon Bowie Custodian | Daryl Bowie Security | Sarah Boyle Social Studies | John Bradrood Orchestra | John Branda Math | Sharlyne Buchanan Freshman Academy | Susan Buse Special Education |
| | | | | | | | |
| Mark Ciesielski FIN | Kim Corman Special Education | Lorraine Covaci Assistant Principal | Renae Cox Cafeteria | Molly Crown Physical Education | Dawn Czaba ENL | Benjamin Daniel Physical Education | Mark Danielson Band |
| | | | | | | | |
| David DeMuth Assistant Principal | Grace Dewald Guidance | Christine Dixon Business | Barb Dlouhy Special Education | Kim Drapac Special Education | Nancy Draper Math | Miles Duncombe Science | Susie Duzan Business |
| | | | | | | | |
| Jeffrey Eaton Math | Patricia Eckert Custodian | Ed Eliscupides Custodian | Jeffrey Fairburn Physical Education | Mark Fairburn Custodian | Robert Fernando Custodian | Brigitte Floyd Nurse | Melissa Flutka Science |
| | | | | | | | |
| Julie Fregien Math | Susan Gaines Teacher's Aide | Dragica Gajic Custodian | Juana Garza Cafeteria | Charles Gleason Special Education | Amy Govert Physical Education | Linda Hall Student Services | Teresa Harness Cafeteria |

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Christina Haverty Custodian | Susan Hayes Physical Education | Kira Healy Math | Donald Hickman Custodian | Dave Hinkel Freshman Academy | Anthony Hofer Social Studies | Michael Hoffman Math | Jason Hostetter Freshman Academy |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Frank Hudak Custodian | Sean Hudson Physical Education | Richard Honey Industrial Tech. | Sara Hussey English | Joseph Hussey Math | William Iddior Math | Elisha Israel Special Education | Dorothy Jamison Special Education |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Nicki James Drama | Timothy James Assistant Principal | Jennifer Jenkins Security | Darcie Johnston Special Education | James Johnston Industrial Tech. | Kathy Jones Special Education | Betty Jordan Guidance | Nicki Jusko Athletics |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| William Kelly Substitute | Nicole Kendrick Security | Sarah Kennedy Art | Elizabeth Kenyon Media Center | Christine Kibler-Wheeler, English | Anthony Klimczak English | Debra Klippel Main Office | Andjelija Knezevic Custodian |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Michael Knocke Social Studies | Nada Kolar Custodian | Diane Kowalski Orchestra | Rosellen Kozel Special Education | Sarah Krowka Special Education | Michael Krutz Principal | Pam Lach ENL | Danny Lackey Diversity Coord. |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jennifer Leek Math | Connie Lewis English | Elma Lockett Cafeteria | Luis Lopez Science | Rae Lopez Business | Tricia Lukawski Physical Education | Bob Mackovjak Technical Ed. | Kristin Maglish Fitness Center |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lori Magnuson Guidance | David Maldonado World Languages | Veronica Maldonado Guidance | Diane Mandan Social Studies | Dawnell Martin Teacher Aide | Rachelle Massacavollo Math | Mark McCullom Science | Mary McVade Technology |

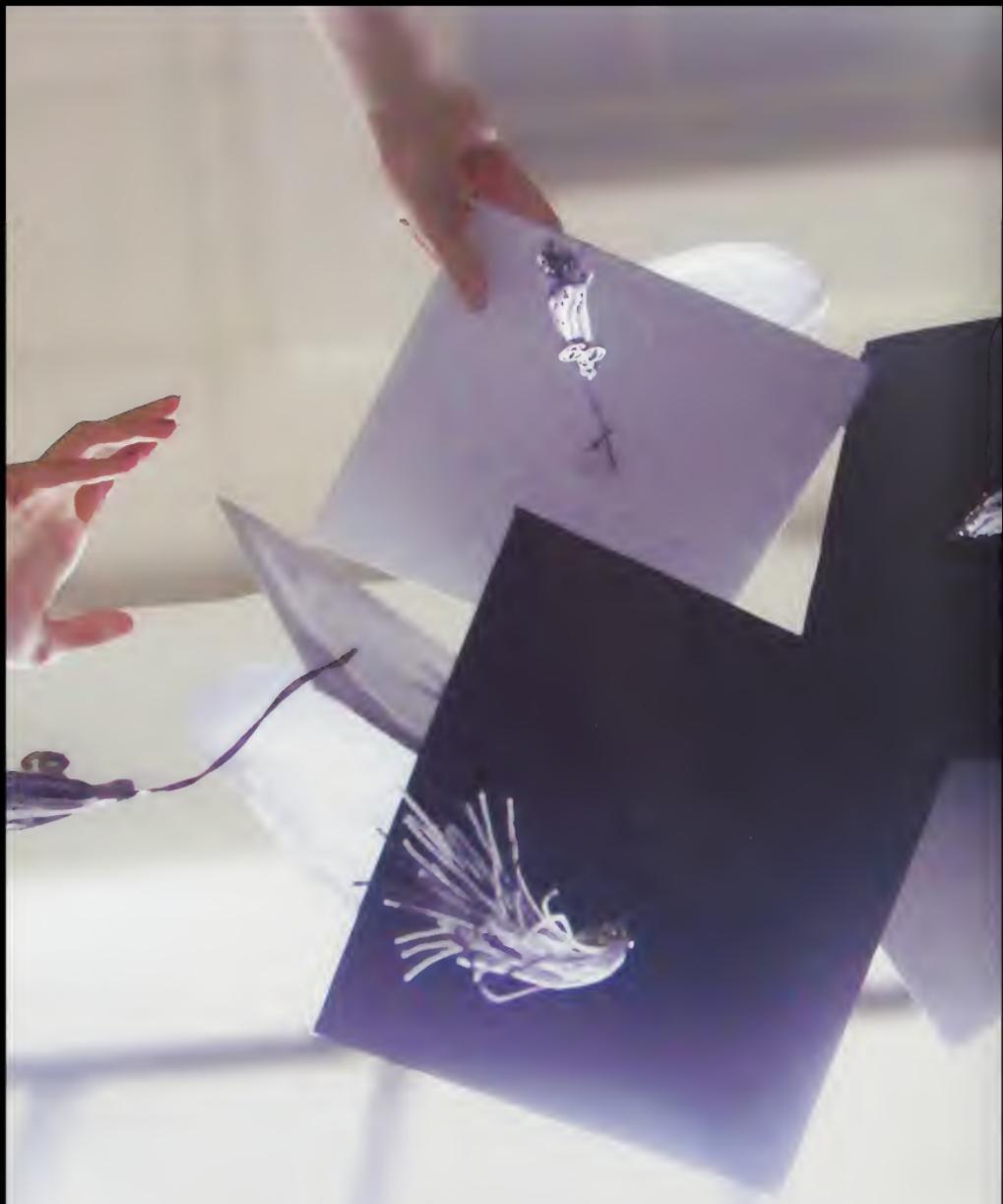


| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sean Meagher Math | Lee Meyer English | Nisa Milosavijevich Custodian | Vesna Mitic Custodian | Joe Monahan English | Debbie Monix English | Helen Moravskij Custodian | Sally Morgan Science |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| LaFonda Morris Assistant Principal | Dan Molander Social Studies | Erin Mulloy-Flores English | Mary Neylon Media Services | Gail Nicolini Math | Bonnie Nikach Media Services | Andrew Nikisch Business | Deborah Onika-Brazy Science |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Kim Ortega ENL | Martha Ortiz Teacher Aide | Esmeralda Palmerin-Zamora | W Lang | Rick Parker Special Education | Stacy Parkhurst Cafeteria | William Parnell Custodian | Brian Past English |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Lenka Pejosi Custodian | Nicholas Petralia Social Studies | Maryetia Petras Science | Donna Phelps Media Center | Deanne Pierce Math | Marsha Pierson Main Office | Karen Porter Cafeteria | Laurie Powers Substitute |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Steven Prather Industrial Tech. | Terry Pratt Art | Carolina Procter World Languages | Teresa Procter English / Journalism | Rose Pulliam Security | Janis Qualizza Athletic Director | Guy Ramey JROTC | Shelley Ray FACS |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Kari Regan Freshman Academy | Mark Reid Freshman Academy | Melinda Reinhart Choir | Mary Rhone Custodian | Chris Richardson Social Studies | Connie Richie Guidance | Chuck Riggle Special Education | Pamela Roberts Teacher's Aide |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mark Robinson Custodian | Kathleen Rock Math | Kay Ross Special Education | Sharon Row Business | Marie Samuel Cafeteria | Mark Schellinger Social Studies | Violet Schmuck Math | Sandra Scholtens Teacher's Aide |



| | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Daniel Schoon Social Studies | Pamela Schuetz English | Melanie Scott Main Office | Andrea Seeman English | Charles Seligman Math | James Simon Special Education | Jennifer Simon Science | Alison Skertic English |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Patricia Smith Media Center | Patricia Smith Family & Cons. Sci. | Rose Smith Substitute | Jason Sonnenberg English | Irene Spiro World Languages | Debra Staffeld Math | Jacob Stafford Social Studies | Margaret Stallings Family & Cons. Sci. |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sara Stallings Family & Cons. Sci. | James Stamper Social Studies | Charles Stanford Custodian | Jean Stanford English | Luke Starkey Social Studies | Zoran Stefanovic Custodian | Evelyn Steiner World Languages | Al Stoner World Languages |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Paxton Suggs Student Teacher | Michelle Sulich Guidance | Kim Suroviak Special Education | Melissa Szczesna Special Education | David Teeter Technical Ed. | Marilyn Thien Student Services | Ronald Thomas Security | Derek Thompson Special Education |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Cheryl Ursery Student Services | Joy Varela Custodian | Judy Vassallo Guidance | Melissa Volkman English | Carol Von Behren Family & Cons. Sci. | Darrell Washington Security | Patrice Well English | William West Sr. Study Hall |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Doretha Wheeler Special Education | Sue Whitlock Special Education | Jermece Williamson Freshman Academy | Sally Williamson Science | Debra Willison Main Office | Michelle Wilson Guidance | Katie Wiser Krizek Guidance | Daniel Wrassman JROTC |
|  |  |  | | | | | |
| Jeffrey Yelton Science | Brian Zdych Physical Education | Joan Zerbe Treasurer | | | | | |





A photograph showing a close-up of a person's hand holding a pen over a dark-colored graduation cap (mortarboard). The hand is positioned as if about to write or sign something on the cap. The background is blurred.

get remembrance.

Sheer excitement—the feeling that fills seniors with pride when they walk across the stage at commencement. Nervous—what seniors feel knowing that the future is their next destination. Tears—the liquid that cascades from seniors' eyes when saying goodbye to their friends of the last four years. Smiles—what creeps across seniors' faces as they walk down the red carpet, dressed up, looking like their own piece of Hollywood. Joy—what seniors feel when driving around the school with their friends after the Senior Breakfast. Memories—what all seniors take with them after high school. "Memory is a way of holding onto the things you love, the things you are, the things you never want to lose." —"The Wonder Years" television show

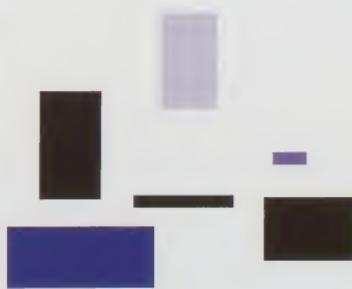


photo credit: Junior Shannon Wood



*Joseph
Andrade-Schaeffer*



Brianna Renée Addeo



Elisha Annville
Choral Teens 11, Fall Play
10-11, Show Choir 11,
Spring Play 11, Varsity
Choir 9, Velveteens 10,
ISSMA



Harry Abre
National Honor Society
9-12, Orchestra-Viola
9, Tennis 9-12, Tennis
Captain 12, Tennis
Leadership Award 11



Jessica Aldridge
Cross Country 11,
Basketball Homecoming
Princess 9, Key Club
10-12, Newspaper 11-12,
Newspaper Sports Editor
12, STAND 11-12, Track
10-12, Volleyball 9-10



*James Pierre
Allen III*



Jada Alvarez
Auto Shop 11, Baseball 9-
12, Building Trades 12



Javard Alvarez



Kristin Alvarez
Choral Teens 11, Drama
Club 9-12, French
Choir 12, STAND 9,
Varsity Choir 9, Velveteens
16, Vocal Teens 12



Michelle Anderson
Band-Concert-Pep
Marching 9-12, Drama Club
9-12, Drama Club
Officer 12, Drum line 9-12,
Fall Play 9-11, Kids on
the Block 12, Spring Play
9-12, Thespians 9-12



Andre' Anderson



Brian Anderson
German Club 10-11,
Russian Club 10-11



*Christopher
Andronowski*



*Lytina Nicole
Andrews*



Nick Antico
CAD 10-12, Teacher Aide
12



*Yara Karolu
Azevedo*
French Club 11, PNN
12, Student Government
12, Teacher Aide 12,
Volleyball 9-10



*Loretta Barbara
Azevedo-Morales*
Band 9-10, STAND 9,10,12



Gerald Porter
Science Olympiad 9-11,
Track 9-11



Marcellus Bodwin
Cross Country 12, National
Honor Society 11-12, Track
9,11,12



Katherine Branshaw
Class Government 12,
Key Club 10-12, Key Club
Officer 10-12, Softball
10, Student Government
12, Student Government
Officer 12, Softball Student
Manager 9,12



Briana Brandy
STAND 9, Voices of
Reason 11



Courtney Burgeleddt
CAD 10, Choral Teens 9-12, SOSA
10-12, Drama Club 9-12, Drama
Club Officer 11, Fall Play 9-12,
French Club 10-12, French Club
Officer 12, IU Honors Program 11,
NHS 11-12, Revue 9-12, Spring
10-12, Yearbook 11-12, SGA 10-12
Officer 11-12, Teacher Aide 12,
Thespians 9-12, Thespians Officer
11, Varsity Choir 9, Velveteens 10



Sarah Barnard
Yearbook 12



Ashley Barnes
Peer Helper 11



Kiana Barnes



Tierra Janice Barnes



Kelley Barrick
Swimming 9-12, Swimming Captain 12, Teacher Aide 11-12, Tennis 9-12, Tennis Captain 12, Volleyball 9-12, Volleyball Captain 12, Yearbook 12, Tennis MVP 11, Tri-Athlete Award 10-12, Weightlifting Competition Award 12, MPAC 11-12



Tia Brooks
Dance Team 12, Yearbook 11



Mariah K. Bottiste
Dance Team 9, Orchestra 10, Football Trainer 12, Basketball Trainer 12, Tennis 12



Darius Bratthe
STAND 12, Yearbook 10-12



Croesdy Braxley
Drill Team 12, Fall Play 12, HERO 12, Key Club 12, Newspaper 12, Planetarium 12, Prom Committee 12, STAND 12, Tennis 12



Denise Bratty



Chris Breckhoff
Football 9-12



Justin Bernard



Brian Biduk



Ryan Bishop
Concert Choir 9-12, Key Club 9



Brianna Sharone Blant



Ashton Reparscha Blatt



Danielle Brynner
Gymnastics 9-12, Gymnastics Captain 12, National Honor Society 11-12, Lip Sync 9, Senior Video Editor 12, Soccer 9-12, Teacher Aide 12, Track & Field 9-12, Gymnastic MVP 10, Gymnastic Most Improved 9, Track Most Improved 9, Tri-Athlete 11-12



Cora Boenker
SOSA 10-12, Drama Club 12, NHS 12, Orchestra 9-12



Kendall Bravick
Cheerleading 9-12, Cheerleading Captain 12, Cheerleading Co-Captain 11-12, Teacher Aide 10-12, Varsity Choir 9, Velveteens 10, Vocal Teens 12, Cheerleading Leadership Award 12, Cheerleading MVP 12, Winter Formal Court 10, Fall Musical 11-12



Theophilus Christophe Boone



La'Shea Brown
Marching Band 9, Track 9



Chris Bradley
Football 9, Track 9-12, Track Captain 12



Herman Brandoma



Nyssa Brantley
National Honor Society 11-12, PNLY 12, Volleyball 9-12, Volleyball Captain 12



Niva Jones Brooks



Desiray Sharika Braun





Mack Aaron
Braum
Tennis 9



Adrienne Burdette



Haynes Burns
Key Club 12, Track 9-10



Ayesha M.
Campbell



Mark E.
Campbell II
Band 9-10, SOSA 9-12,
Creative Writing Club Officer
11-12, Econ Challenge 9-10,
Jazz Impressions 9-10, Peer
Mediator 9-12, Soccer 9-11,
Teens for Christ 10, Track 9-12



Antonio Corrao
Teacher Aide 12, Soccer
9-12, Soccer Captain 11,
Track 9, Soccer Leadership
Award 11, ROTC 10-12



Danice Littman
Corrao
Cross Country 9-10, Cross
Country Captain 10, Football
9-10, French Club 11-12,
Hoosier Girls State 11-12,
NHS 9, Soccer 9,11,12, Soccer
Captain 9,12, Track 9-12, Cross
Country MVP 9-10, Track Most
Improved 11, Cross Country
110 Percent Award 9



Stephen Coviello
Golf 9-12, Golf Captain 11-
12, Orchestra 9-11, PNN
10-12, Tennis 9-12, Tennis
Captain 11-12



Ashley Carrasco
Cheerleading 9-10



Jasmine R.
Corrington



Sierra Crossell
Newspaper 12, Yearbook
12



Niade C. Castro



Jordan Nery
Myles Chandler



Justin Chandler
Autoshop 11-12, CAD 10,
Wrestling 9-11



Ashley Cherry
STAND 12, Teacher
Aide 12, Tennis 9-12,
Tennis Leadership Award,
Voices of Reason 11



Kriстан Chisholm



Bryanne M. Clark
Cheerleading 10; Class
president 12; Dance Team
11-12; Academic Decathlon
9, Newspaper 12; Aide
12; Prom committee 12;
Student government 11-
12; Track 9-12; Lip Sync
12; Revue 12



Michael Clark
CAD 9,10,12, Football 9,
Key Club 12, Planetarium
9-11, PNN 11, Track 10,12



Ryan Clark
Autoshop 12, Teacher
Aide 12



Teatrick A. Clark



Ashton Cole



Charnisse Cole
French Club 10,
Newspaper 10-12,
Newsprint Photo Editor
11-12, Peer Helper 12,
STAND 10, Teacher Aide
12, Track 10, Lip Sync
Contest 12



Tongela Coleman



Breanna M.
Collins
CAD 12, Cross Country 11,
Drama Club, Peer Helper
12, PNN 10-12, STAND
9,12, Track 11, Voices of
Reason 10





Henry Collins



*Brittany Comer
STAND 9-11*



Brian Cooper



*Holly Diane
Cooper*

Chouf Teens 9-12, Fall Play 9-10, Revue 10-12, Spring Play 11-12, SADD Officer 12, Teens for Christ 10, Voices of Reason 11



*Terrance Cooper
Football 11, Track 10,12,
Weightlifting Competition
12*



*Anthony Covington
CAD 12, STAND 12,
Student Government 12,
Swimming 11-12*



*William J.
Cortokes Jr.
Autoshop 11-12, Wrestling
9-12, Wrestling Captain 12*



*Jonathan Caudy
Swimming 10-12, Teacher
Aide 12, Track 10, JROTC*



*David Cop
Baseball 9-12, Baseball
Captain 12, Football 9-12,
PNN 10,12, Weightlifting
Competition 9-12*



*Christopher
Crawford
SOSA 10-12, FEA 10-12, FEA
Officer 11-12, IU Honors
Program 11-12, National Spanish Test 12,
Newspaper 10-12, Quill
and Scroll 11-12, Spanish
Club 10,12, Spell Bowl
Team 11-12, Story
Committee 11-12, Student
Government 12*



*Jennifer Crowley
Basketball 9-10, Guidance
Aide 11-12, Teacher Aide
11-12, Softball 9-12, Softball
Captain 12, Volleyball 9-10,
Softball Sportsmanship
Award 11*



Everett Creswell



*Michael Crist
Autoshop 11, Building
Trades 12, CAD 11-12*



*Ron Crook-Circone
Track 9-12, Track
Captain 12, Football 9-12*



*V'Lemia Curry
PNN 10, Soccer 11-12,
Soccer JV Captain 12,
STAND 10-12*



*Avon Curtis
Bowling Team 10-12,
CAD 11-12, Color Guard Team
9-12, Concert Choir 9,
Decathlon Team 9, Fall
Play 9-12, FCCLA Officer
10-12, French Club 11-12,
IU Honor Society 11-12,
Show Choir 9-12, STAND
12, Varsity Choir 9, Vocal
Teens 11-12*



Jonathan Dard



Shaniell Davidson



Eric Davis



*Leran Joseph
Davis*



*Terrell Hayes
Concert Choir 9, 10;
Drama 11; Aide 11; Revue
9; Yearbook 11, 12; AFJROTC
10, 11, 12; Lip Sync 10*



*Taylor James
Future Educator of
America 11, Newscaster
12, Teacher Aide 10-12,
Student Service Aide 10,
Track Student Manager 11,
Football Student Manager
12, Yearbook 12*



Raeshawn Day



Chantel DeJesus





Misti Demetrikis
Building Trades 10-11,
Planetarium 9-12



J'rox Dickerson
National Honor Society
11-12, Teacher Aide 11-12,
Varsity Choir 9, Hand Bell
Choir 10-11



Jade Dixon
Basketball 9-12, Cross
Country 9, Teacher Aide
12



Keith Dockery
Basketball 9-10, Football
9-12, Track 10-12, Mr.
Football 12



Marissa Dorfman
Swimming 12



Corey Dorsey
Academic Super Bowl
12, Art Club 12, Bowling
Team 12, Cross Country
10, Football 9, Track 9-12,
Weightlifting Competition
11



Ciara D. Doss



Farrah Drivotez



Felicia Dudley
Cross Country 12, Key
Club 12, Teacher Aide
9-10, Track 12



Brianna East
Choral Teens 11, Spring
Play 11, Varsity Choir 9,
Velveteens 10, 12



Brianna El-Gaziry
National Honor Society 12,
Peer Helper 12, Soccer 10,
Track 9-10, Scholar Athlete
Award



Keisha Eller
STAND 12, Tennis 10-11,
Voices or Reason 11-12



Wyntor Jarrett
Elo
Basketball 9, Track 9



Polonia Escalante
National Honor Society 12,
Teacher Aide 12



Lauren Evans
Peer Helper 12, PNIN
11, Teacher Aide 11-12,
Yearbook 11



*Myrlissa Name
Evans*



Mike Ewing
Autoshop 11-12, CAD 10,
Drama Club 9



Kieshaun Ferguson
Decathlon Team 12,
STAND 11-12, Track 9-12
Track Captain 12



Averan Fitts
Debate 9, Football 9-12



Keyona Fitzpatrick
French Club 12, STAND
10-11, Track 10



Weston Fleming
Diving 11, Key Club 10-
11, Guidance Aide 9-11,
Soccer 10, Swimming 9



Ted Flores
AFJROTC 10-12, German
Club 9-10



Robert Flores



Karen Marie Flory





Elliot Faley
Drama Club 10-12, Drama Club Officer 12, Fall Play 10-12, Kid on the Block 10, Science Olympiad 10, Spring Play 10-12, Thespian 10-12, Thespian Officer 12, Best Supporting Actor 11



Kristi Fong



*Mercedes Lynn
Forsell*
Cheerleading 9, French Club 11-12, Basketball 10, Homecoming Queen 9, National Honor Society 10, Peer Mediator 9-12, PNN 10, Soccer 9-12, Soccer Captain 12, STAND 11-12, Varsity Bands Student Manager 9, Teacher Aide 10-12



David Freeman
Band 10, Football 9, Track 12



Cedric A. Frank Jr.
Band 9-11, Drum Major 12, FCCLA 11, National Honor Society 11-12, Track 9-12, Scholar Athlete 11



Nick Furio
Building Trades 11-12



Laura Corinello
Drill Team 11, AFJROTC 10-12



*Christopher
George Gendos*
Basketball 9, Class Government 9-12, Football 9, Teacher Aide 12



Zachary Liles



Breann Gross
National Honor Society 9-10, Student Government 12, Teacher Aide 10-12, Wrestling 10



*Mitchell Dominguez
Godfrey*
Voices of Reason 11-12



Jacob Gomez



Andrew Gorolowski
Basketball 9-10, Soccer 9-12, Soccer Captain 12



*Robert Leon
Gordon II*



Kandace Greene



Kryystal Greene



Dolores Griffin



Andrew Grzywanski



*Anaesthesia Edna
Gutierrez*



Kynthia Foreman
Drama Club 9, Revue 11, Show Choir 10-11, Teacher Aide 12, Varsity Choir 9, Velveteens 10-11, Handbell Choir



Kevin Hothney



*Michael Jett
Houston*



Megan Harms
Creative Writing Club 10-12, Creative Writing Club Officer 12, Drama Club 10, Fall Play 12, National French Test 10-12, Orchestra 10-12, Spring Play 12



Terrence Horner
Basketball 9-10, National Honor Society 11-12, PNN 11, Prom King 11, Soccer 9-12, STAND 11-12, Track 9-12, Track Captain 12





Ramell Harris



Stacia Harris



Arielle Harrison
Key Club 11, STAND 12



Stephenne Hart
Golf 11, Track 11, Dance Team 9-12, Dance Captain 11-12, Chitie Bowl Team 10-11, Spanish Club 11, Student Government 12, Teacher Aide 12, Yearbook 12, Yearbook Performing Arts Editor 12, Dance MVP 11,12



Stephen Hart



Monte Rackson
Harvey



Hugo Hernmen
Football 12



Angelina Nicode
Hernandez



Jessica Hernandez
Golf 11, Peer Helper 11-12, Student Government 12, Wrestling Student Manager 10-12, Teacher Aide 11-12



Eric Herzog
Soccer 9,11,12



Deante' Coyone
Hickerson



Britney Hill-Pearson
Cheerleading 9, National Honor Society 9, PNIN 12



Tasmine Hanks



Jerry Arthur
Melvin Jr.



Dominique Holliday
Drill Team 10, Gary Area Career Center 12, Peer Helper 11, STAND 12, Student Government 12, Teacher Aide 12



Kelley Hunter



Evelyn Irak



Ahmad Isca



Anika Ivory
National Honor Society 11-12, Varsity Choir 10



Toranya Shantia
Jackson



Lawrence Johnson
Football 9,10,12, Track 11, Wrestling 9



Darrion Johnson



Alon Avery Johnson
II



J.D. Johnson III
Basketball 12





Kyle Johnson
Autoshop 10-12, Concert
Choir 9, STAND 9



Lorelle Johnson
Concert Choir 11, Dance
Team 9-12, Drama Club
12, Fall Play 12, Basketball
Homecoming Princess
9, Freshman Class Prud
Bowl Team 10-12, Teacher
Aide 10,12, Thespians 12,
Varsity Choir 10



Michael Johnson



*Carl Edward
Jones Jr.*



Leonard Jones
Band 9-10, National Honor
Society 11-12, Soccer 11-12



Jerome Jones
Dance Team 11-12, Dance
Team Captain 11, Revue
11, Student Government
12, Teacher Aide 12



Kean Jones
Football 9-12, Track
9-12, Track Captain 11,
Wrestling 9-12, Wrestling
Captain 12



*Miriam Niaade
Jones*



Shance Jones



*Jonathan Wendell
Jordan*



Robbie Jordan
Football 9-12, Teacher
Aide 12, Wrestling 9,11,12,
Wrestling Captain 12



Tavia Jordan
Drama Club 10, Gary Area
Career Center 11, Key
Club 12



Aaron Kaczmarek
Baseball 9-10, Football
9-12, Football Captain 12,
Weightlifting Competition
9-12, Weightlifting
Competition Champion
11-12



Andrew Kullak



William Kelly



Heather Kid
Color Guard 12, Color
Guard Captain 12, French
Club 11,
Orchestra 10-12



Ashley King



Kristen Kaharchuk
Concert Choir 10, FCLLA
12, French Club 11-12,
French Club Officer 12,
Marine Biology 10-11,
NHS 11-12, Swimming
9-12, Varsity Choir 9,
Swimming Sportsmanship
Award 10



Patrick Kilbert
German Club 10, National
Honor Society 11-12,
Orchestra 9-10



James Kotek
German Club 10, National
German Test 10, Guidance
Aide 11-12



Cortney Kotek
Bowling Team 9-12, Choral
Teens 11, Drama Club
9-12, German Club 9-11,
National Honor Society 11-
12, Thespians 9-12, Varsity
Choir 9, Velveteens 10,
Vocal Teens 12



Adam Laturno
CAD 10, Football 9



Mallory Lomaxter
Cheerleading 9, NHS
11-12, Newspaper 10-11,
Wrestling 11-12, Varsity
Swimming 11-12, Aide 12,
Varsity Choir 9, Velveteens
10, Volleyball 9, Yearbook
12, Yearbook Editor 12,
Flagball Trainer 12, Quill
and Scroll 12



Robert Londrum





Tiffany Leicht
Gymnastics 9-12,
Gymnastics Captain
12, PNN 11-12, Football
Student Trainer 12, Track
9-10



*Constance Jennifer
Leija*



*Bernadette
Somas Lewis*



Joshua Liddell
Football 9-12, Peer Helper
9-10, Peer Mediator 9-10,
Teens For Christ 9-12,
Weightlifting Competition
9-12, Weightlifting
Competition Champion
11-12, Wrestling 10



Jasmine Lopez
Newspaper 11-12, Quill
and Scroll 11-12, Student
Government 12, Teacher
Aide 12



Anthony Luxco
Building Trades 11-12,
Yearbook 12



*Katalin Lundberg
Armstrong*
FCCLA 11-12, FCCLA
Officer 12, Softball 10-
12, Softball Captain 11,
Student Government 12,
Softball Student Manager
9, Teacher Aide 12



Kyle Livesford
Environmental Club 11,
Golf 9



*Marlene Yvette
Motry*



*Alicia Margarita
STAND 11-12, Student
Government 12*



Kreshawnne Major
Peer Helper 9, STAND 9,
Teacher Aide 10, Track 12



Romy Maldonado
Basketball 9-10, Peer
Helper 12, Soccer 9-11,
SADD 12, Teacher Aide
10-12, Yearbook 12



James Mays
Basketball 9, Football 9-12,
National Honor Society
11-12, Peer Mediator 9-12,
Track 10-12, Track Captain
12



*Amber Lynne
Mazzella*



Evan L. Murch
Bowling Team 9-12,
Drama Club 9-12, Golf
9-12, MPAC 12



*José Jaime
Martinez*



*Maria M. Velarde
Martinez*



Joe Motasoak
Autoshop 11-12, CAD
Club 10-11, German
Club 10-11, Russian Club
10-11, Swimming 10



Andre Mathews
Autoshop 11-12, Band 9



Keishia Morris
Band 9-10, Color Guard
9,10,12, Color Guard
Captain 12, FCCLA 12,
Gary Area Career Center
11, Revue 12, STAND 9-12,
STAND Officer 12, Student
Government 12, Voices of
Reason 11-12



Adam Mayersky
German Club 10, Tennis
9-12, Tennis Captain 12



*Matthew W. Mayo
Jr.*



Taylor McCall
STAND 12, Teens for Christ
11-12, Tennis 11, Voices of
Reason 11-12



David McGee
Cross Country 12, Track





Karen McKee
Color Guard 12, Color
Guard Captain 12, German
Club 11-12, Russian Club
11-12



Rhonda McLeave
Class Government 12,
Dance Team 9-12, Dance
Team Captain 12, Key
Club 12, Revue 10-12,
Student Government 12,
Yearbook 12, Yearbook
Academic Editor 12



Clinton East Murray



Robert McKee



Ayesha McMurtry
STAND 12, Student
Government 12, Track 12



Brian McWilliam
Autoshop 9-12, HERO 11-
12, Teacher Aide 10-11



Kayla K. Meltz



Lindsey Mendez
Class Government 9-12,
Drama Club 9, Football
Homecoming Court 12,
Hoosier Girls State 11,
NHS 12, Teacher Aide 12,
Student Government 12,
Track 11, Yearbook 12,
Lifestyles Yearbook Editor
12, Quill and Scroll



Brittany Montezzo
Key Club 9, National
Honor Society 11-12,
Peer Helper 10, STAND
10, Teacher Aide 10-12,
Wrestling Student
Manager 9-12, Academic
Achievement 9-12



Ava Mora
SOSA 12, Cross Country
10-12, Peer Helper 12,
Peer Mediator 9-12,
Spanish Club 10, Student
Government 10-12, Teacher
Aide 10-12, Teens
for Christ 11, Track
10-12, Cross Country
Sportsmanship and Scroll



Sandy Mora



Charles Mosh
Band 9-12, Cross Country
11, German Club 10, Jazz
Impact 9-12, National
German Test 11, PNN 11,
Spring Play 11, Track 10,12



Tonisha Mose
Office Aide 12, Peer
Helper 12, Student
Government 11-12,
Swimming 9, Teens for
Christ 10, Track 10-11,
Hand bells 11



Nadia Moward
Basketball 9-10, Concert
Choir 9, Basketball
Homecoming Court 9,
Teacher Aide 11-12, Hand
bells



Jordan Moller



*Michelle Lynn
Moward*



Makendra Mowdy
Teacher Aide 9,11



Ronald Moore
Choral Teens 11-12,
Concert Choir 10, Drama
Club 12, Fall Play 12,
Revue 11-12, Show Choir
11-12, Spring Play 11-12,
Thespians 12, Vocal Teens
11-12



Tiara Moore
Peer Helper 10-11, Teacher
Aide 10-11



Timothy Moore
Track 11



*Tremayne Michael
Moore*



Ashanti Morris
STAND 9, Student
Government 10-12, Vocal
Teens 9



Karla Moten



Ma' Muhammad
Prom Committee 12,
Student Government 12,
Track 10-12, Track Captain
12





Michelle Myers
Advanced Orchestra 9-12,
Soccer 11, Teens for Christ
9-11, Track 10



Matthew Nathan
Band 9-12, Jazz Impact
9-12, NHS 11-12, Peer
Helper 10, Spring Play
11-12



Matthew Neese



Ashley Negretti
Marine Biology 11-12,
Student Government
11-12, Swimming 9-12,
Teacher Aide 11-12



Nick Nelson
Autoshop 9-11, Drums
10-11, FFA 9-11, German
Club 11, Peer Helper 10-11,
PNM 12, Spring Play 12,
Student Government 12,
Swimming 9, Vocal Teens
12, Wrestling 10, Voices of
Reason 12



Jacy Nelson
Baseball 9, Football
9-12, Teacher Aide 12,
Weightlifting Competition
11-12,



Ta'Shia Nelson
Band 9-10, STAND 9-12



Rebecca Neville
Choral Teens 10-12, Dance
Team 9, Fall Play 12, FNN
11-12, Revue 11, Show
Choir 10-12, Spring Play
10-12, Teens for Christ 9-11,
Track 9-12, Varsity Choir
9, Vocal Teens 10-12, Track
& Field MVP Award 10-11,
Voices of Reason Officer



Naption Newman
Autoshop 11, Drama Club
12, Fall Play 12



Nina Nielsen



Cody Niles
Chess Club 9-12, Football
9-12, NHS 11-12, Orchestra
9-12, Teacher Aide 12



Jonathan Nuñez
Basketball 9-12, Basketball
Captain 12



Kevin O'Neill
Football 9, Key Club 11,
National Honor Society 11-
12, Student Government
11



Jason Orelowski



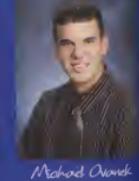
**Michael Christian
Olson**



Nathaniel Ortiz
NHS 11-12, Orchestra
9-10, Peer Helper 11, Prom
Court 11, Tennis 9-10



David Ortiz
Orchestra 9-12



Michael Owings
Building Trades 11-12



Ed Packwood
Building Trades 11-12



Amy Palko



Niva Parker
Drama Club 9-12, Key Club
9-10, Teacher Aide 11



**Tamra Lafe'
Parker**



**Brittany Brjoe
Patterson**
Teacher Aide 10-11



Kearia Patterson
Dance Team 11, Key
Club 9-10, Peer Help
9-12, Revue 9, STAND
Student Government 9-10,
Teacher Aide 9-11, T-
9-10





Spense Pard
Peer Helper 11, Teens for
Christ 10-11, Voices of
Reason 11-12



Kaitlin Pontach
Concert Choir 9, Fall
9-12, Teacher Aide
12, Track
Captain 12, Weightlifting
Competition 9-12,
Weightlifting Competition
Champion 10,12, Yearbook
12, Yearbook Sports
Section Editor 12



Joshua Pecoska



Christine Pedon



Alexander Perez



April Perry
Drama Club 9, French
Club 11-12,



Jessica Petolos
Peer Helper 12, PNN
10,12, Football Student
Trainer 9-12, Basketball
Student Trainer 9-12



Gregory Phillips
Drama Club 10-12, Fall
Play 10-12, French Club
12, Golf 10-12, Key Club
11-12, Key Club Officer 12,
NHS 11-12, Orchestra 9-10,
Planetarium 9-10, Spring
Play 9-12, Thespians 10-12,
Science Club 9-12



**Shantae Morgan
Pirtle**



Samantha Polk
Class Government 12,
Key Club 9, Softball 12,
STAND 11-12, Student
Government 12



Carter Pace
Basketball 9-10, Orchestra
9-12



Markeeda Pratt
Key Club 12, Teacher Aide,
10-11



Brigida Preciado



Nicole Price
FEA 12, NHS 12, PNN 10,
Prom Committee 11, Softball and
Soccer 12, STAND 9-12, STAND
Officer 9-11, Student Advisory
Committee 10-11, Aide 12,
Teens for Christ 10, Valentine's
Day Parade 11, Yearbook 10-12,
Yearbook Organizations &
Events Section Editor, STAND
Community Service Awards,
Finance Council 12



Aprilie Randolph
Drill Team 10-11, STAND 10,
ROTC Award



Andrica Reed
FCCLA 12, Russian Club
9-10, STAND 9,10,12,
Student Government 12



Terrieka Reed



**Kavir Reed-
Lotker**
CAD 11, Football 11-12,
Wrestling 11



**Christian Edward
Reed**



Hannah Rose Reynolds
Class Officer Vice President
9-12, Community
Planning Committee 12,
Class Government 9-12,
FFA 12, NHS 11-12,
Newspaper Editor-In-Chief 12, PNN 10-11,
Prom Committee 11, Quill
and Scroll 11-12, Student
Government 9-12, Football
Student Manager 10,
Teacher Aide 12, Tennis 9-12



Kyle A. Reynolds
Autoshop 10-11, Class
Secretary 10-11, Class
Government 10-12, FFA
12, Football 9, Key Club 11,
Teacher Aide 12, Student
Government 10-12, Track 10



Leslie Richards
Key Club 9-12, Key Club
Officer 10-12, NHS 11-12,
Softball 10-11, Tennis 9,
Pirate Council 10-11



**Alyssa Lynn
Richmond**
Basketball 9-10, Volleyball
9-12, Volleyball Captain 12,
Yearbook 11-12, Yearbook
Senior Editor 12, Quill and
Scroll 12



Dennis Richmond
Band 9-11, Building Trades
12, Track 9-11, Wrestling
9-12, Wrestling Captain 12





Vanessa L. Riley
Drama Club 12, Russian Club 11-12, Spring Play 10, Teacher Aide 12, Velveteens 10



Tom Ries
Baseball 9,10, Diving 10,12, Diving Captain 12, PNN 11-12, Soccer 9-12, Quill and Scroll 11-12, Soccer 9-12, Yearbook 11-12, Yearbook Sports Editor 12, Newspaper 12



José Rivera
Autoshop 11-12



Tyler Rank
Baseball 9, Basketball 9, French Club 11-12, NHS 11-12, Peer Mediator 9, PNN 10-12, Soccer 9-12, Soccer Captain 12, Aide 10-12, Track 10-12, Weightlifting Champion 11-12



Kekina Robertson
Teens for Christ 11



Tiffany Robertson
PNN 12, Softball 9-12, Teacher Aide 11, Track 11-12, Volleyball 9-12, Volleyball Captain 12, Weightlifting Competition 9, Weightlifting Competition Champion 12, MPAC 12



Chasne Robinson



Lorne Richardson
Band 9-12, STAND 12, Marching Band 9-12, Marching Bond Section Leader 12, Top Jazz Band 10



Ryan Roddy
Band 9-11, Key Club 9, Peer Mediator 12, STAND 9,11,12, STAND Officer 12, Track 10-12, Marching Band 9-12, Jazz Band 9-10



Antonio C. Rivers
Basketball 9-10, Basketball Captain 9-10, PNN 11, Revue 10,12, STAND 11-12, Teens for Christ 9-10, Voices of Reason President 11-12



Michelle Ross
NHS 11-12, Orchestra 9-12, STAND 9, STAND Officer 9, Student Government 12, Fall Sports Student Trainer 12, Swimming 9-12, Swimming Captain 11-12, Track 9-12, Trick Captain 12, Yearbook 12, MPAC 11-12, Girl Scouts 9-12



Brenda Roy
Softball 9-12, Softball Captain 11, Foothall Student Manager 12, Teacher Aide 11-12



Megan Rutledge
Teacher Aide 12



Matthew Sheridan
President



Katherine Sardour
Band 9-10, Cheerleading 10-12, Cheerleading Captain 12, French Club 11, NHS 11-12, PNN 12, Student Government 12, Aide 12, MPAC 11, Cheerleading Most Improved Award, Cheerleading Leadership Award 12



Jasmine Sotoe
Spanish Club 12



Jamie Sotzneff



Alexander Subra
Autoshop 11-12, Drama Club 10



Myra Sutars
Band 10-12, Drama Club 12



Elja Sutars
Marching Band 9-10, Basketball 9, Class Government 12, Cross Country 12, Peer Mediator 9-12, Soccer 9-12, Student Government 12, Track 9-12, Track Captain 12, Weightlifting Competition, Track & Field All-State Honors



Maria Elizabeth Sanchez



Suzette Sibany Sanchez
Peer Helper 12, Soccer 10-12, SADD 11, Yearbook 12, Yearbook Sports Editor 12, Soccer Scholar Athlete Award 11, Quill and Scroll 12



Mariah Sanders
HERO 11, Student Government 11-12, Teacher 10-11, Volleyball 10



Mike Sandridge
CAD 9-10, Class Officer 12, Class Secretary 12, Class Government 11-12, Cross Country 9-10, Spanish Club 9-10, Spring Play 9-10, Student Government 9-12, Swimming 9-12, Track 9,10,12, Track 9





Kelly Sandfield
Gold 11-12, Golf Captain
12, Teacher Aide 9,
Softball 9-12, STAND 12,
Wrestling Student Manager
11, Teacher Aide 11-12,
Volleyball 9, Yearbook 12,
Yearbook Freshmen Section
Editor 12



Ryan Schaefer



Devin Salvendy
Building 12, Football 9,
Quiz Bowl Team 9, Special
Olympics 9-12



Justin Scott



Samantha Szwedzki
Class President 8-11, Class
Government 9-12, Basketball
Homecoming Court 9, PNN
10-12, Prom Court 11, Prom
Queen 11, Senior Video Editor
12-13, Student Government
9-12, Baseball Manager 9-12,
Wrestling Manager 9-12, Aide
11-12, PNN Senior Advisor 12



Jonathan Shavers
Color Guard 12, Color Guard
Captain 12, Drama Club 9-12,
German Club 11-12, Russian
Club 11-12, STAND 12,
Teacher Aide 12, Track 11



Derek Shea
CAD 10-11, Football 9-11,
Revue 12, STAND 11-12,
Weightlifting Competition
11



Tierra M. Simpson
Teacher Aide 12, Track
9-12, MPAC 12



Kendall Sims



Amesha Smith
Key Club 9, Revue 12,
Spring Play 10, STAND
9-12, Varsity Choir 12,
Velveteens 12, Voices of
Reason 11-12



**Brian Keith
Smith Jr.**



Edwin Smith
Band 9-12, Cross Country
9, FCLLA 9, Key Club 10,
Track 11-12, Jazz Band
9-10



Ryan Smith
Basketball 9-12, Basketball
Captain 12, Natural
Helpers 12, Teens for
Christ 11



Ashley Skudowski
Concert Choir 9, Teacher
Aide 12



Nolan Solomon
Academic Super Bowl
10, Key Club 9-12, Key
Club Officer 10-12, NHS
11-12, NHS Officer 12,
Teacher Aide 12, Academic
Chevron 11, Pirate Council
10-11



Matthew Soneson



Zoo Spinks
Peer Helper 12, PNN 11-
12, PNN Senior Advisor
12, Senior Video Editor
12, Technical Crew 12,
Teacher Aide 12



Marisa Spears



Jada Spencer
Gary Area Career Center
11-12, Peer Mediator
9, Revue 12, Student
Government 12, Teacher
Aide 12



Courtney Sprague
Class Treasurer 10-12, Class
Government 10-12, Drama Club
9-12, Drama Club Officer 10-
11, Fall Play 9-12, NHS 11-12,
NHS Officer 12, Orchestra
9-12, PNN 11-12, Prom Queen
9-12, STAND 10-12, Student
Government 9-12, Boys
Soccer Manager 10-12, Aide
12, Track 11-12, Thespian
Officer 10-11, Indiana
Thespians Executive Board 11



Amanda Sputo
Secretary 9-10, Officer 10-11,
Drama Club 9-12, Drama Club
Officer 10-12, Fall Play 9-11,
FCLLA 11, Key Club 11-12, Key
Club Officer 12, NHS 11-12, NHS
Officer 12, Officer 11, Media
Services Aide 12, Quill and Scroll
12, Revue 10, Spring Play 9-11,
Student Government 11-12, Teens
for Christ 12, Thespians 9-12,
Winter Guard 9



Tierra Starks
Dance Team 10-11,
Decathlon Team 11, Peer
Helper 10-11



**Spring Monet
Stewart**



Emilie Stojanovic
Basketball 9-12, Class
Government 11-12, Drama
Club 9, NHS 11-12,
Newspaper 11, Peer
Mediator 10-11, Quill and
Scroll 11-12, Senior 10-11,
Student Government 9-
11-12, Aide 12, Track 10-11,
Yearbook 11-12, Yearbook
Editor 12, MPAC 12, Pirate
Council 12





*Christopher
Stokes*



Ryan Stokes
Baseball 9-12, Basketball
9-10, Football 9-12, Soccer
9-12, Soccer Captain 11-12,
Teacher Aide 12



Kenya Strong



Michael Sweet
Chess Club 9-11, Concert
9, German Club 11-12



Francisco Swettke
Autoshop 9-11, Baseball
9-11, Basketball 9,11



Kate Tarr
Cross Country 9-12, Cross
Country Captain 12,
FCCLA 12, PNN 10-12,
Swimming 11-12, Teacher
Aide 12, Track 9-12, Track
Captain 12, Cross Country
MVP 9-12, Pirate Council,
MPAC 10-12



Kelly Tarr
Cheerleading 9, Class
Government 12, Choral
Teens 11-12, Athletic Aide
12, Spring Play 11, STAND
9, Student Government
12, Teacher Aide 12,
Track 10, Varsity Choir 9,
Velveteens 10, Vocal Teens
11-12



Arian Taylor
Gymnastics 9-12,
Gymnastics Captain 12,
Track 9-12, Gymnastics
Best Mental Attitude 9-11,
MPAC 12



*Brandon Terrell
Taylor*
Bowling Team 9-12, CAD
10-11, Color Guard 12,
Golf 10, IJU Honors Program
11, NHS 11-12, NHS Officer
12, Peer Helper 11, Peer
Mentor 11, Soccer 9-12, Stand 10-
12, STAND Officer 11, Aide
12, Track 9, 11,12, USBC
Dexter All-American Award



Lakisha Taylor
Marching Band 9, STAND
12, Student Government
12, Teacher Aide 12, Track
10-11



Morgan Taylor
Cheerleading 12, Cross
Country 10, Newspaper
Feature Editor 11-12,
Teacher Aide 12, Quill and
Scroll 11-12, STAND 10,
Teacher Aide 12, Teens for
Christ 11, Track 9,10,12,
Prom Committee 12



Rebekah Taylor



Eric Terry



Neophia Thomas
Concert Choir 10, Track
9-10, Varsity Choir 10



Nieasha Thomas
Band 9-10, Advanced
Band 11-12, Track 10,
Weightlifting Competition
12



Paul Thornton III
CAD 11, Football 10-
11, Teacher Aide 12,
Weightlifting Competition
11-12



Lindsey Tolson
Decathlon 12, Diving 9, Drill Team 10-11



Coacie Travis
Drill Team 10, STAND 12,
Student Government 12



Jennifer Tucker
Band 9-10, Hoosier Girls
State 11, NHS Officer
11-12, Peer Helper 11,
Spanish Club 9, STAND
10, Tennis 9-12



Harold D. Turner
Basketball 9, CAD 10-11,
Cross Country 12, Track 9-
12, All-State Honors Track
& Field



Tierra Turner
Basketball 10-12, Basketball
Captain 12, Teacher Aide
12



Katrina Underhill
Band 9, Color Guard 9,
Diving 9, Drill Team 9-10,
Soccer 9, Swimming 12,
Tennis 9, Velveteens 9,
ROTC



Christopher Vale
Key Club 9-10, Track 10-12



Arian Valenzuela
NHS 11-12, Peer Helper
12, Soccer 9-12, JV Soccer
Captain 11, JV Leadership
Award 11



Tad David Vian
Winkle



Michael Vazquez



Eli Vazquez
PNN 12, STAND 12,
Student Government 12,
Wrestling 11-12



Tessoria Vazquez
Track 11-12



Jeremy Vistocky
Building Trades 12,
CAD 10-11, Football
9-12, Teacher Aide 12,
Weightlifting Competition
9-12, Weightlifting
Competition Champion 12



Kaitlin D. Wenzelter
Autoshop 11-12, Soccer
9-12, Teacher Aide 12



Mandie Wagner



Keshia Elizabeth
Ains Walker



Ray Walker



Tracey Walker
Choral Teens 10, Concert
Choir 9, Fall Play 11,
Russian Club 11, Show
Choir 11-12, Vocal Teens
11-12



Jonathan Wallace
Drama Club 11-12, Drama
Club Officer 12, Fall Play 11-
12, PNN 11-12, Revue 11-12,
Spring Play 11-12, STAND
11-12, Student Council Officer 11,
Student Government 12,
Aide 12, Thespians 11-12,
Thespians Officer 12, Best
Actor, All-Star at Thespians
Regional, Lip Sync



Etvette Walton
Drama Club 10, FCCLA
12, Spanish Club 9, Special
Olympics 9-11



Mallory Warren
CAD 9-12, Key Club
9-10, Track 9-12,
Volleyball 9-12, Volleyball
Captain 12, Rotary Youth
Leadership Award



Michelle Warshall
FCCLA 11-12, Prom
Committee 12, Soccer
9-10, STAND 10, Student
Government 12, Academic
Achievement 4th year



Criston Washington
Track 11-12, Leadership
Award



Joshua Washington
CAD 10-12, Track 12,
Wrestling 10-12, Wrestling
Captain 12



Toya'ise Waters
Dance Team 11-12, Drama
Club 12, Key Club 12,
Revue 11-12, Student
Government 12, Tennis 11-
12, Track 12, Lip Sync



Mandy Weis
Choral Teens 10-11, Fall
Play 10, Show Choir 11,
Varsity Choir 9, Velveteens
10-11, Volleyball 9-10



Bryant White
Building Trades 12,
Cad 12, FCCLA 9-12,
Track 9-12, Weightlifting
Competition 10-12



Megan White
Key Club 9,10, STAND
9-10,12, Student
Government 11-12,
Teacher Aide 11, Teens for
Christ 11



Ashley Waterman



Shaterrah Marie
Wigley



Sherma Laverne
Woller



Jairius Woldemes
CAD 10-12, Football 9,12,
Track 11-12





Donte Williams
Baseball 12, Football
9-12, STAND 9, Track 11,
Weightlifting Competition
12



Sarah Williams
Peer Helper 10-11,
Prom Court 11, Softball
9-12, Softball Captain
12, Student Government
12, Teacher Aide 11-12,
Volleyball 9, MPAC 11



Stephan E.
Williams II
NHS 12



Blake Willis
Football 10, Orchestra
9-10, STAND 9-10, Teacher
Aide 12, Track 10,12,
Weightlifting Competition
12, Building Trades 12



Erica Monroe
Wise



Jack Robert
Witter Jr.

Saad Abdallah
CAD 9

Anais Acosta
Brandon Raynor
Adams

Keara Dubay Adams
Manal School

Al Khatib

Iesha Anderson
Concert Choir 10-11

Katherine Anderson

Ricky Anderson
Christian Jessie

Anthony

Marcia Arrage
Soccer 11-12

Derrick J. Barker

Nathan Jr. Barnes

Martie D'Angelo
Poos

Catherine Baugrain

Philip Andrews
Boeing

Jasmine Blake

Huslen Bond

Natasha God
Barker

William Bradley

Building Trades 12

Desondre Briggs

Tyeshia Braum

Marcus Terrell

Bryce

Travis Bullock

Magique Cager

Jerome Con

Cynthia Corajol

Cheryl Rasetta

Cassy

Nathaniel Cassy

Richard D.

Cook Jr.

Baseball 9-11, CAD 10, Cross
Country 11, Drill Team 12,
Football 9-10, Swimming 9-10



Nicholas Wolak
Autoshop 12, Orchestra
9-11, Swimming 10-12,
Swimming Captain 12



Kathryn Woodpark
Drama Club 12, Peer
Mediator 9-12, Spring
Play 12, Teacher Aide 11,
Thespians 12, Handbells
10-11

Camera

Kortin Evans
Class Government 12, Cross
Country 12, Future Educators
of America 12, FCCLA 12,
Peer Mediator 12, Revue
12, Science Olympiad 12,
Student Government 12,

Tennis 12, Track 12

Charles Alfred

Ewing IV

Jedid Fajardo

CAD 10-11

Doris Faulkner

Jeremy Fantoin

Iesha Faustin

Garcia

Jeanette Stover

Garcia

Enrique Garcia

Julian Giron

Building Trades 12, Drama
Club 11, Wrestling 11

Jeremy Allen

Gjelde

Jessica Glem

Brandon Kristopher

Gider

Michael Robert

Gonzales

Terrence Gordon

Wrestling 10

Desondre Gray

Football 11-12, Weightlifting

Competition 10

Charles Gresham

Christina Guzman

STAND 9

Sabrina Haukland

Ramer

Karl Puerto
Hamilton

Torrance L. Hamilton

Ashley Honey

Andre Lamar

Horndawey

Dominique Harris

Track 12

James Eric

Harris

Robert Lee

Harrison

Tramaine Harvey

Kiera Shish

Hoy

Tiffanny Areval

Nia Headley

Ne'Sheana Hearst

Citahn Henry

Andrew D'Andre

Hibber

Heather Hicks

Kerry Scott

Hightsmith

Joshua Higuet

Diving 9, Swimming 9-10

Ashley Hale

Cross Country 10-11, STAND

9, Student Government 11-

12, Track 9-11

Karen Walter

Hodarwski

Fabion Marcus

Hoffmann

Adriah Holden

Gregory Sylvester

Holley II

Ashlyne Geargette

Hopkins

Matthew Hresko

Norashawn Hudson

Philip Wayne

Holley III

Demetruus Jackson

Peer Helper 11, Teacher Aide

11, Track 11, Weightlifting

Competition 11, Weightlifting

Competition Champion 11

Quinn Christopher Jackson

Isold Denise

James

Natashia Jimenez

Yearbook 11, Yearbook

Academics Editor 11

Brianna Jones

Johansen

Brandon Johansen

Haley Johansen

Jordan Johansen

Johnson

Terrance Johnson

Johansen

Zach Johnson

Building Trades 12

Jatanya Jones

Cocondra Jones

Antonia Kalva

Jones Jr.

Mariyah L. Jones

Michael Jones

Tishonera Jones'

Jones

Kristie L. Koser

Melissa Kepkep

Ryan Kester



Thomas Dotan
Color Guard 10-12, Drill
Team 10-12, Football
9-10, Teacher Aide 10-12

Wrestling 10
Pattie Dotan
Concert Choir 9-10

Darius Dotan
Drill Team 9-11

Kyle Dotan
Evans Jr.

Baseball 9-11, CAD 10, Cross
Country 11, Drill Team 12,
Football 9-10, Swimming 9-10



Bentley A. Woods



Javarine Woods

Band 9-12, Dance Team 9-12, Newspaper 11-12, Newspaper Editor 12, Peer Helper 12, Quill and Scroll 11-12, Student Government 12, Teacher Aide 12

Tanya Woods

Gymnastics 10-12, Teacher Aide 11-12, Track 10

Anthony Wright

Band 9-12, Football 11-12, Track 10

Dwayne Wright

Marching Band 9-12, Bowling Team 10-12, Chess Club 9-10, FCCLA 11-12, Football

Lawny Yarbrough

Baseball 9, Basketball Captain 9, Football 12, PNN 12, Track 10-12

Lawny Yarbrough

Baseball 9, Basketball Captain 9, Football 12, PNN 12, Track 10-12



Kenneth Woodfork
Spell Bowl Team 12



Jared Larken

Shy Seniors

David Elijah King
Stephanie King
Karl Kitekaki
Lorraine Nyre Lee
Joshua Michael Leeks
James Lewis
Roy Arthur Lewis
Desirae A. Lazzacio
Christopher W. Logan
Alexandra Priscilla Long
James Long II
Band 9, Baseball 12, Bowling Team 10-11, Football 9-10
Danyelle Love
Drill Team 9-11
Victoria Lucas
Roman Lure
Anthony Mabane
Drops Macarthy
Basketball 12, Basketball Captain 12, Football 11-12, Football Captain 12
Michael Morgan
Desirae Odeh
Malone
Michael J. Marisch
Vince Bryan
Monique Band 9-12, Jaha Band 9-12, Track 11-12
Angela Marsh
Angela Most

Carvel Mayfield
Roy Mcumber AFJROTC 9-12
Laponte Daniels McDowell
Corinnae Aquino McKinney
Dylan William Meadows
Leanne Elizabeth Medek
Molly Alvarn Gary Area Career Center 11-12
Donovan G. Mitchell Ellis Hayes
Montgomery Jr.
Desiree Moore Gary Area Career Center 11-12
Somarrera Niade Miz
Ryan Marga Christena Nocacki
Cheerleading 9-10
Peyton Norwood CAD 11-12, Drill Team 10-12, Revue 12 Book
Brook Morgan An Ondroavich
Terrance Ojeda Art Club 9, Spanish Club 10, Teacher Aide 11
Kearsten Eugene Oliver Jr.
Willie Alexander Ollie
Stephanie Pagan Amaka Pobin

Arturia Polossoars
Maisha Parker
Russell Parkhurst
David Parks
Jevon Floyd
Patterson
Jaede Pavel
Swimming 9-12, Swimming Captain 11-12, Swimming MVP 11
Tessa Pearson Building Trades 12, Drill Team 10-11
Kwasiel Pietraszek
National French Test 10,
Teacher Aide 12, Lip Sync 9
Karan Jay Piggee
David Williams anti
Sarah' Isle Amatozka Tammie Porter
Jessica Prioleau
Ritu Raval
Cross Country 11, Key Club 11, Volleyball 9
Odell Jamor Reeves
Cady Repoldo
Amine Resendez
Ashley Richards Joseph
Richards Jr.
Demetra
Richardson Dylan Roberts
German Club 10-12, Russian Club 10-12

Samuel Polossoars
Rebecca Parker
Shedrick
Ridwan Jr.
Latifa Kara
Robeson
Vanique Ross
Bronnie Marie Sanders
Jonathan Sotacksi
Marish Danielle R. Schmidt
Cokies Scott Tennis 12
Chloe' Smith
Cornelia Smith
Kiora Smith
Lunaria Barbara Smith
Joshua Stacker
Band 9-12, CAD 12, Jazz Impact 10-12, STAND 12, Track 10-12
Samuel Stewart
David Samuel Suttles
Asked Gundrud
Tauberg
Nancy Topia
Ashlynn Taylor Concert Choir, Voices of Reason 11
Melon Jonario Teague

Washington Jagged Javelin Washington
Shawna A. Watkins Joshua Wells
Patrick Wadon Bowling Team 9-10, CAD 10, Diving 9-10, Peer Helper 9-10, Teacher Aide 12
Darius Vincent White
Derek Cosimir Williams
Sam Andrew Williams II
Jamel Williams CAD 12, Track 12, Wrestling 11
James Kendall Williams
Brian Darnell Williams Jr.
Christian Wilson Jevon Waters
Dervin Eugene Woodson Sabrina Taitfox Yasin
Jaemine Jovane Yangblood Matthew Zeko


SENIOR CHOICE AWARDS.

Most Likely to Stay Friends



Brianna M. Clark
and Brandon Terrell Taylor

Most Likely to Succeed



Henry Collins and
Lorrielle Johnson

Most Likely to Become Famous



Dolapo Macarthy
and Nadia Millard

Best Dressed

Jeremy Vislosky, Joey Nelson, Aaron Kaczmarski,
Tyler Roark, James Manis and Keith Pavlish



Alaysia Burns and
Jerry Arthur Holcomb Jr.

Most Likely to Stay Friends



Caitlyn Spires and
Jonathan Wallace

Best Actor/Actress



Joey Nelson and Ava Meux

Best Personality



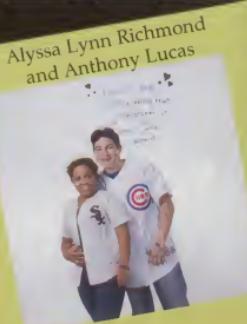
Stephanie Hart
and Christopher Stokes

Best Dancer



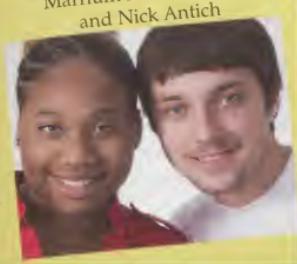
Best Car

Cutest Couple



Alyssa Lynn Richmond
and Anthony Lucas

Nicest Eyes



Marrium Nicole Jones
and Nick Antich

Best Body



Tiera M. Simpson
and Robbie Jordan

Most Athletic



Kelsey Barrick and Ryan Stokes

Most Popular



Lorielle Johnson
and Dolapo Macarthy

Best Hair



Jerry Arthur Holcomb Jr.
and Danielle Bly

Nicest Smile



Ronald Landrum
and Jasmine Woods

Most Actively Involved



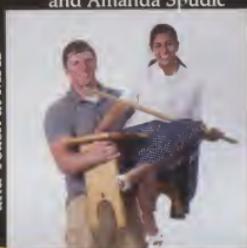
Hannelore Reynolds
and Brandon Terrell Taylor

Most Intelligent



Brandon Terrell Taylor
and Lindsay Mendez

Most Likely to Come Back
and Teach at MHS



Aaron Kaczmarski
and Amanda Spudic

Most Spirited



Ava Meux and Mike Sandridge

Most Talkative



Tracey Walker and Tylar Davis

Most Musical



Kelly Tarr and Antonio C. Ross



With the microphone in her hand, Senior Class President Brianna Clark talks to the Senior Class during the Senior Breakfast. "I enjoyed being able during the Senior Breakfast," Clark said. "It was to see everyone look nice and come together. It was a really positive event," Clark said. During the Senior Breakfast, Clark felt "lots and lots of happiness." Clark was happy a long year, and it the Senior Breakfast. "It's been a long year, and it was really nice to see everything come to a close in a positive way," Clark said. After the breakfast, Clark went to McDonalds and to the mall, and even made a music video for her Calculus class. "The Senior Breakfast was perfect. I wouldn't change a thing," Clark said.

While attending the Senior Breakfast, Senior Shonee Jones enjoys the Senior Video with friends. Jones said she enjoyed being with all her friends at the breakfast. "I like taking pictures with everyone and enjoying time with my friends," Jones said. The Senior Breakfast was also a bittersweet moment for Jones. "I was sad because we're all departing, but happy because we've come so far," Jones said. Even though Jones said she enjoyed the breakfast, she wished that the weather was better. "I would change the weather so we could have gone to the beach instead of being cold," Jones said. After the breakfast, Jones went home and spent some time with her best friend and boyfriend.

During the Senior Breakfast, Senior Brittany Braje Patterson watches the trailer for the Senior Video. "I really enjoyed the breakfast. I liked taking pictures with all my friends and just being there with all the seniors to enjoy this one last event before graduation," Patterson said. Patterson felt both sad and happy during the breakfast. "I was happy because the year was finally over, and I knew that graduation was approaching, but sad because I knew that I may not see some of my closest friends anymore," Patterson said. Patterson felt that the breakfast was a good way to bring all the seniors together. "Overall, the breakfast was just the perfect way to end the year," Patterson said.



"My favorite part of the breakfast was just getting to spend time with my classmates for one last time and taking a million pictures with everyone's cameras," Senior Lesley Richards said. During the Senior Breakfast, Richards came to the realization that high school was coming to an end for her. "It hit me that I'm really graduating and leaving this place. I was sad and happy all at the same time," Richards said. Richards had been waiting for the Senior Breakfast all year. "I think it's one of the things that we all wait for," Richards said. Although Richards enjoyed herself at the breakfast, she was sad knowing that she was probably never going to see half the people from her class again. After the breakfast, Richards went to Indiana Beach. "I wouldn't change a thing about the Senior Breakfast. It was really fun, and I got to be with all my friends," Richards said.

SENIOR DRIVE AROUND.



Embracing the "going green" idea, Seniors Morgan Taylor and Brianna Clark take a different approach to the traditional Senior Drive Around and ride bikes instead of driving cars. "It was this little joke Morgan and I had because of the cost of gas. Coincidentally, neither of us had gas that day," Clark added. Joining the girls were Seniors Joel Van Winkle, Eric Terry and Taylor Douglas on scooters. "We wanted to stand out," Van Winkle said. "We wanted to be the scooter squad," Douglas added.

Waving from Senior Taryn Woods' Nissan Armada, Seniors Kearia Patterson, JaQuoya Shanta Jackson and Alaysia Burns hang out the windows as they drive around the school. "It was something positive that the whole Senior Class was a part of," Burns said. "I thought it was good how it came together and all the seniors were there," Woods added. However, it was also emotional for Burns "because it's the last time we're going to see people."



Joining Senior Nick Neligan in the back of Senior Derek Shea's truck are Seniors Joel Fles and Matthew Sheridan Rzeszut. "We were trying to think of a way to grab attention," Neligan stated. Neligan has been playing the drums for seven years; however, they all have an interest in music.

Senior Michael Magee



Seniors Mike Sandridge and Ashley Negrelli



Senior Michael Ovancek



~~SENIOR VS. FACULTY~~ senior vs. faculty basketball game.

seniors. faculty.

34 38



During last time, Senior Students Hert and teacher Mr. Jim Stanford were invited the students of the Dawson High by Teachers' association. They then performed their dance routine at a social school. I think that our hard work paid off. For pleasure the the Association has said.



BACCALAUREATE.



As the audience listens, Senior Jamine Laddell speaks at the 2009 Baccalaureate. The Award of Knighthood was given to the three senior students in 2008. As a reward for their excellent service, Baccalaureate was chosen by students and faculty. Students were encouraged to make a speech, and the commencement speaker after the conclusion of the baccalaureate was President (Rev.)



Mr. Niles Dinscombe



In commemoration
of our 2009
graduates,
and their
achievements,
Alma Mater
is giving them
the title of
Baccalaureate
Knights.
High school seniors
in the class of
teacher Mrs. Myra
Hawkins, and
the young women
for choosing
to use their
talents for
the betterment
of our community.

Senior Rebecca Ncville



Senior Antonio C. Ross



Senior Kandace Greene





Seniors dressed in white at the
Senior vs. Faculty Game



Seniors Ken Jones and Dantrell Williams



Student Teacher Mr. Jerry Willman
Mr. James Stamp



Junior Baker Kory Kair
Senior William Cisakits



Seniors Morgan Taitt, Hinesley Reynolds, Breanna Clark, Charlotte Linton, Jazmine Wilson, and Taylor Lewis
had the best attire for 2010 homecoming senior spirit! See it all during the senior spirit page!



Homecoming Senior
Spirit Week, Senior
Spirit Team, Super
Seniors

SENIOR SPIRIT.





Senior Jessica Aldrich applauds as classmate Senior Tyler Routh finishes his speech. In years past, the speakers have chosen to research and write their own speeches, while others commonly hire valedictorians and one salutatorian, each one receiving a diploma that is signed by a local-known person.

Eighty years after Mrs. Hazel Harry Mayer graduated from Merrillville High School, she attended her second commencement. Mr. Michael Kruskal, principal, presents Mrs. Mayer with a dozen purple roses as Grankine e Director Mrs. Michelle Sulich looks on. Mrs. Mayer's family farmed the land that is now Turkey Creek Golf Course and she walked to elementary school on 73rd Ave. In contrast to her graduating class of 2009, the Class of 2009 included 479.



Superintendent Mr. Tony Lux, Senior Kelly Sarsfield and Mr. Joe Atria



Senior Deaundre' Gray



Superintendent Mr. Tony Lux and Senior Gregory Phillips



Seniors Lauren Evans and Danielle Wagner



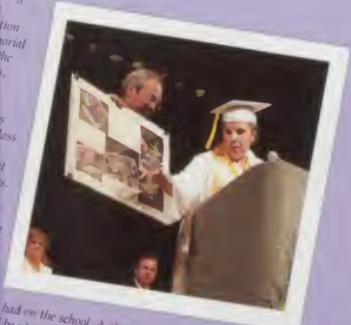
commencement.



Mr. Joseph Atria

As a first time guest speaker, Biology teacher Mr. Joseph Atria says he was very surprised to find out he was chosen. "I used to teach most of the students when they were underclassmen. That's why I felt so flattered as such a surprise," Mr. Atria said. Mr. Atria started weeks ahead of time preparing for his speech. "Right after Mr. [James] Schaefer asked me, I started thinking about things that were important and that I'd want to talk about. I started thinking about my graduation and my friend Montgomery, and it all started from there," he said.

After showing an artist's representation of the Memorial Garden to the Senior Class, Senior Class Treasurer Carlton Spires presents the class gift to School Board President Mr. Mark Lucas. The Class of 2009 donated a pond in the shape of a footprint for the Memorial Garden, concluding the impact the class had on the school. A stone etched with the name of each graduate will be placed in the garden.



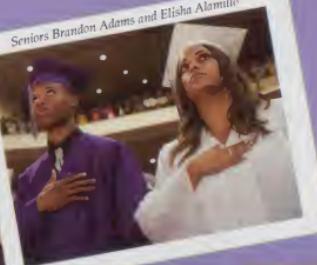
Seniors Cristina Guzman and Kayla Hahney



Senior Jacob Alvarez



Seniors Brandon Adams and Elisha Alamillo



Cheering and applauding, graduates release 1000 purple and white balloons made from the Star Plaza Theatre's ceiling.

'This senior class is, an outstanding class.'



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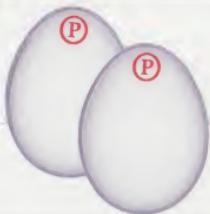


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May all your dreams come true.

Love Mom, Matt, G-Ma & G-Pa



Melissa Warren



Congratulations on all you have done. Good luck
in all you do & remember it's all about Him.

We are very proud of you.
Love, Mom and Dad



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Kirsten Koharchik

You're gonna miss this..
You're gonna want this
back. You're gonna wish
these days hadn't gone
by so fast.

Love, Mom and Dad





Alyssa Brindley

We are so proud
of you and
all that you have
accomplished.

Remember to always
follow your heart,
wherever it may lead,
and all your hopes,
dreams and wishes,
you will one day
achieve.

"Good Luck
at VALPO!"

We love you very much
Mom, Dad, Kristen and Nicole

Christopher Gemelas



Congratulations on
all your
achievements.



May all of your dreams
come true!

Love Dad, Mom, Dane
and Nen

Kendall Bonick



Life will lead
you in many
directions. Choose
your path and
focus on your
goals. Believe
in yourself.
We are both very
proud you!

Love, Mom and Dad



Brandon Taylor



*You have been granted
a gift from God!*

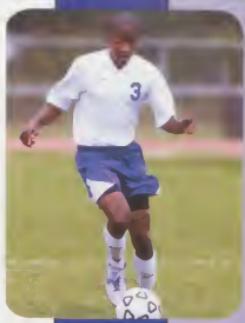
*As you capture this blessing,
through all of the accolades,
acknowledgements and honors
bestowed upon you, you continue
to remain humble and prayerful.*



*Your potential is boundless and
your faith is undeniable!
Saying that we are proud of you
just doesn't seem adequate!
Thank you allowing us to share
the beginning of a remarkable journey!*



*We Love You,
Mom, Dad & Marissa*



Building a Legacy



Class of 2009

I have enjoyed watching you ladies develop not only into passionate, expressive dancers, but into beautiful, young women over the past four years. Even if dancing is not in your future plans, it will always be a part of you. It has made you who you are today. Life is not choreographed. You are now the choreographer as you create your own dance of life. I love you ladies more than you will ever know and wish you the best of luck in all of your future endeavors. "Dance is the truest expression of the soul."

"Peace, Love and Happy Dancing"
Coach Volkman



"To watch us dance is to see our hearts speak."





Alyssa Richmond

"Never grow a wishbone, Alyssa, where your backbone ought to be." We are very proud of your strength and determination to stand for what you believe without any reservation. You will reach your dreams.



Love,
Mom and Dad





Ruby,

You have achieved a very important milestones in your life. Enjoy your success in graduating and recognize that with effort you can succeed in anything. You have made us very proud, Congratulations Baby!

Love, Mommy & Daddy



Congratulations, Stephen and Stephanie Hart
Mom & Dad



Lindsay Mendez

Lindsay, we are so very proud of you and all your accomplishments.
Congratulations and best of luck on all your future endeavors.

Love, Mom, Dad and Grandpa



Kelly Sarsfield



Emilija Stojova

It is hard to believe 18 years have gone by. Now you have grown into a beautiful young lady. We are proud of you and you are everything to us. We love you sooo much!

-Mom, Dad, and your brother, Aleksandar



Congratulations Kelly!
The best is yet
to come!
We are proud of you!
Love, Dad,
Mom & Katie

Congratulations Kelly!
Your senior year
is precious.
Remember it always!
We love you.
Baka & Grandma

Congratulations!



Scholar Athletes Tyler Roark and Emilija Stojova and Athletes of the Year Kelsey Barnick and Ryan Stokes

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2009 Co-Editors
Seniors Emilia Stojova
and Mallory Lancaster

note from the editors.

This book began as an infinitesimal idea, developed into a vision and matured into a yearbook that exceeded our expectations.

Looking at the task ahead of us, saying we were overwhelmed is an understatement. Feeling unprepared, we attended the Indiana University High School Journalism camp over the summer. The first day of classes we realized we were behind. We quickly had to decide on a theme that would be consistent throughout the entire book, which was probably the hardest decision we had to make. From there on, the book unraveled in our minds.

At the awards ceremony on the last day of camp, we finished ahead of hundreds of students. Before any pages had even been produced, this book was award-winning. The IU School of Journalism awarded us with the best theme and third place in the yearbook design contest.

Towards the middle of the year, we hit a lot of rough spots. It was constant stress. In fact, we both grew our first and only white hairs—for now.

Having a second opinion eased a lot of pressure off the both of us, especially on deadline, when it was crunch time. It was really helpful having each other to split the workload.

Not saying it was all good times, stress caused a lot of fights. But overall, we pulled together to turn our vision into paper, binding and cardboard.

Sure, it doesn't sound like much of an accomplishment, but you don't know the half of it.

Of course, we didn't do it by ourselves. None of this would have been possible without our adviser, Mrs. Teresa Procter. She was our third editor, our third musketeer. Thanks to her this has been one of the most beneficial experiences. We learned a lot from being editors. Organization, leadership and creativity all came from this experience.

Putting together a 216-page book is a pretty large task for two people to accomplish. It's all worth it in the end. We wish the best of luck for the editors of years to come. Our advice is to quit before you start—just kidding. Just remember that the most important part is the beginning.

Just like the game Jenga, you can't start working on the top until the bottom is stable. Every piece is significant to the puzzle. You can't start building a great yearbook until even the smallest components are set. The fate of the entire Jenga structure depends upon the players and their choices. One bad choice and the entire yearbook could come crashing down to pieces.

With another school year drawn to an end, another chapter has been published in MHS history. The memories of 2008-2009 are all here, confined within our pages, to gain remembrance through this book.

colophon.

As members of Quill and Scroll, the Indiana High School Press Association and the National Scholastic Press Association, the Merrillville High School yearbook staff presents this 84th volume of *Merrillvue*.

Under the guidance of Mrs. Teresa Procter and led by co-editors Mallory Lancaster and Emilija Stojova, the third hour yearbook class developed this book with the theme of "get perspective." It was our intention to create something that was not just a yearbook, but also a documentation that represents each and every perspective of high school students and the cornucopia that make us one.

First and foremost, the staff would like to thank Mrs. Procter for her intuition, patience and guidance in producing this yearbook. Without her assistance, this yearbook would not have been possible.

Mrs. Valerie T. Tanke, a sales representative for Walsworth Publishing Company, also assisted the creation of this book. The staff would like to thank Mrs. Tanke for her perceptive help throughout the production of this book.

Thank you to HR Imaging Partners Inc. who took the underclassmen and faculty portraits. The yearbook staff also shows their gratitude to Mr. John Bir of John Golas Photographers and his staff for taking all of the senior portraits along with the pictures necessary for sections including Lifestyle Academics, Sports, Organizations & Events, Performing Arts and the Senior Section. We are grateful for his willingness to attend school events in order to photograph and capture moments that will now be remembered through this yearbook.

To create this book, the staff used Adobe InDesign CS2, Microsoft Word and Adobe Photoshop with fonts including Goudy for all stories, Goudy Italic for all captions, scoreboards and group picture titles, Helvetica for group captions, Goudy Bold and Helvetica Bold for all design embellishments and Sleepwalker for all headlines on the cover, title page, dividers and spreads.

The 2009 yearbook staff would also like to make it known that the assistance and contributions from Athletic Department, the secretaries of the Main Office, the Guidance Department and all coaches were greatly appreciated. Appreciation is also due to Mr. Mark Ciesielski and the PNN staff for their assistance in advertising this yearbook. Thank you to Raechel Pietraszak and Shannon Wood for taking and providing the photographs for the dividers. The staff thanks all other persons and groups that have aided in the production of this book.

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